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Trade and Industry

31 January 1974

No more scrapping over international investment disputes – 68 countries have now joined ICSID, the World Bank's Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes. How does it work? See page 158.

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Settling international investment disputes

The work of ICSID

During the past decade or so there has been considerable growth in the international character of investment throughout the world. But what recourse has a company whose overseas investment is expropriated – without adequate compensation – by the host Government? Will the company have to face a long and expensive legal wrangle in an attempt to secure adequate compensation? Companies undertaking overseas investment may at some time be faced with just this kind of situation, so it is perhaps at least comforting to know that such companies can get help from an international institution – the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) – in seeking settlement of their claims.

ICSID (or the 'Centre') was set up on 14 October 1966, through the 'Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and the Nationals of Other States'*. The Convention was prepared by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) with the aid of international legal experts. By May 1973, 68 States had signed the Convention, and 65 had also ratified it to become contracting States. The United Kingdom is a contracting State; a full list is given in the accompanying table.

More British investors in overseas countries could probably benefit by taking account of the facilities of the Centre when drawing up investment agreements. Thus the Export Credit Guarantees Department, when considering an application from a British company for cover under its overseas Investment Insurance Scheme†, will view as a favourable factor any agreement the investor may have with the host government which incorporates an ICSID dispute provision. This feature is emphasised in a recent ECGD booklet on the investment insurance scheme which has been widely circulated to UK investors.

As part of the services it offers, the ICSID secretariat will provide information and assistance in the drafting of conciliation and/or arbitration clauses suitable for agreements and indeed with other matters under the Convention. The Centre can also provide a set of model clauses suitable for use in investment agreements including consent by both parties to the jurisdiction of the Centre.

The Centre's objective

As its primary purpose, the Centre has the aim of encouraging the growth of private foreign investment. This can clearly be helped by providing a procedure by which any legal dispute arising between a contracting State and a foreign investor (who is a national of another contracting State) could be settled by conciliation and/or arbitration before an impartial, international forum.

Clearly however, before a dispute can be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Centre, both parties must give their consent. One of the parties must be the Government of a contracting State (or a constituent sub-division or agency designated by such a government), while the other must be a national of another contracting State.

Consent to the jurisdiction of the Centre can be given in connection with:

1 a new investment agreement;
2 an existing agreement whose dispute provisions are subsequently considered unsatisfactory by the parties; or
3 a legal dispute that has already arisen (whether or not under an investment agreement).

There are no special requirements as to the form of the consent, except that it must be in writing. The two parties may even give their consent in separate instruments.

When a dispute arises

The Convention sets out the circumstances under which disputes may be

* The Convention is published by HMSO in the Treaty Series No 25 (1967) Cmnd 3255.

† The ECGD 'Investment Insurance Scheme' provides insurance against the political risks of expropriation, war and restriction on remittances.

submitted to the Centre. It gives details of how the Conciliation Commissions and Arbitral Tribunals are to be constituted and how they are to conduct their proceedings, and explains how the resulting conciliation reports or arbitral rewards are to be presented and put into effect.

Separate panels of conciliators and arbitrators are maintained by the Centre. Most of these are designated by the contracting States. A State may place four persons on each list, and up to 10 persons may be placed on each list by the Chairman of the Administrative Council, which is the governing body of the Centre; more about this below. Members of the panels have to be persons of high moral character and of recognised competence in the fields of law, commerce, industry or finance who can be relied upon to exercise independent judgement. Competence in the field of law is a particularly important requirement for arbitrators. If they wish, parties to proceedings may choose the panel members to form the Conciliation Commission or Arbitral Tribunal to hear their case.

Subject to the minimal restrictions of the Convention, parties are free to agree on the form and method of constituting their Commission or Tribunal. However, if they fail to agree, there is a formula in the Convention which specifies how such bodies are to be constituted. Similarly, if the parties fail to nominate the members of the Commission or Tribunal, either party may call on the Chairman of the Council to make any necessary appointments from the appropriate panel. The Convention thereby allows the parties the maximum freedom to act by agreement without permitting either party – by failing to co-operate—to prevent the constitution of the body to which it had consented to submit a dispute.

If the parties to a dispute cannot agree on the procedural rules for the conduct of their proceedings, the Administrative Council has promulgated rules which will be applied automatically and which ensure that the initiation or progress of a proceeding will not be held up.

Secretariat

The Centre's secretariat assists in the initiation and conduct of proceedings and in bringing them to a definitive conclusion. In general, the Secretary-General appoints a secretary for each proceeding. The secretary becomes the channel of communications between the parties and the Commission or Tribunal and enables that body, as well as the parties, to make use of the facilities of the Centre.

Proceedings can take place at the ICSID headquarters in Washington but arrangements can also be made to permit all or part of a proceeding to be continued at the seats of institutions elsewhere. With the approval of the Commission or of the Tribunal, proceedings may be conducted at any place agreeable to the parties to the dispute.

Once both parties have agreed to refer their dispute to the ICSID, consent cannot be unilaterally withdrawn by either party, even if one of the contracting States should secede from the Centre. However, a party may, at the outset, qualify its consent in various ways. A contracting State may, for example, require the prior exhaustion of local administrative or judicial remedies; or consent may be restricted to conciliation, to arbitration, or to conciliation followed, if necessary, by arbitration.

Once both parties have given their consent, either before or after a dispute has arisen, either party may file a request for conciliation or arbitration, or both parties may do so jointly. There is a lodging fee – currently $100 – and a set method of filing requests. The requests have to be submitted to the Secretary-General, who subjects them to a preliminary screening to ensure that they substantially conform with the require-

Settling international investment disputes

continued

ments of the Convention. If appropriate, the request is then registered and proceedings are considered instituted.

Once a proceeding is instituted it is expected that a Conciliation Commission or Arbitral Tribunal will be constituted as rapidly as possible. A Conciliation Commission is required to clarify the issue in dispute and to endeavour to bring about agreement between the parties on mutually acceptable terms; an Arbitral Tribunal is required to render an award. In both the constituting of the bodies and the procedures used, the parties to a dispute are allowed considerable self-determination, although there are provisions to overcome any disagreement on these issues.

Although no appeals are allowed outside the Convention procedures, there are several post-award remedies available. The original Tribunal can be requested to rectify any errors and to supplement any incomplete decisions; the original Tribunal, or if necessary a newly-constituted one, may be requested to interpret or revise an award; or the Council Chairman may constitute an *ad hoc* Committee of Arbitrators to consider the annulment of an award on certain grounds specified in the Convention (if the award is annulled in whole, or in part, the dispute may be submitted to a new Tribunal).

An award is binding on both parties. Moreover, each contracting State is bound to recognise all awards made and to enforce any pecuniary obligation imposed, whether or not its government or any of its nationals were parties to the proceedings. For this purpose, each contracting State must designate to the Centre a court or other authority competent to recognise and enforce awards certified by the Secretary-General.

Administration

The Centre is governed by an Administrative Council, composed of one representative of each contracting State, all having the same voting power. Unless a specific designation is made, the Governor appointed by each State of the World Bank is usually automatically its representative on the ICSID Administrative Council. The principal functions of the Council are to adopt the regulations and rules of the Centre, to elect the Secretary-General, to adopt the annual budget, and to decide which non-members of the World Bank should be invited to become parties to the Convention.

The President of the World Bank is *ex officio* the non-voting Chairman of the Council and as such is authorised to make designations to the panels of conciliators and arbitrators. He also nominates the Secretary-General, who is subsequently elected by the Council. The Secretary-General heads the secretariat and is the principal officer of the Centre. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he has certain functions in connection with the disputes submitted to the Centre, of which he is the registrar.

Expenses incurred by the ICSID in arranging a proceeding have to be met by the parties to the dispute. These expenses are divided evenly in the case of conciliation. Initial payments are made as soon as a Commission or a Tribunal has been set up, subsequent payments being required quarterly in advance. Although regulations stipulate the fees to be made to members of a Commission Tribunal, the actual charges will, of course, vary according to the type and duration of the work involved.

Overhead expenses of the Centre not covered by fees for its services or other receipts are theoretically met by assessments on the contracting States – generally in proportion to their capital stock in the World Bank. In practice, however, the World Bank has been prepared to accommodate the Centre free of charge as long as it retains its seat at the headquarters of the Bank, and has also been underwriting the modest overhead expenditure involved since the Centre was created.

Contacting the Centre

Firms wishing to take advantage of the facilities offered by ICSID should write direct to the Centre at:

1818 High Street, NW
Washington DC, 20433
USA

SIGNATORY STATES

Afghanistan
Arab Republic of Egypt
Austria
Belgium
Botswana
Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
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Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Upper Volta
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zaire Republic

* These countries have not yet ratified the Convention

Home News

The need for Stage Three guidelines

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, on 25 January emphasised the need for the guidelines of Stage Three as an essential means of holding a tolerable balance between the industrially strong and industrially weak.

Addressing the Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dinner, Sir Geoffrey said:

'We have not sought, we do not seek, any kind of confrontation with anyone. The only "battle" we are trying to fight is the battle against inflation. We have spent many days discussing our policies with leaders of both sides of industry and in taking account of all they had to say. According to my calculations the Prime Minister has by now had over 40 meetings with industrial leaders in discussions of that kind.

'Of course there are subjects on which progress has sometimes been difficult, for reasons completely outside this country's control. In a world of soaring prices it has been impossible to freeze shop prices for more than a short time. As a community we have to buy our raw materials – oil, wool, foodstuffs and commodities of all kinds – in a world market at world prices. There is no way round. This underlines the importance of our policy for pay as well as our policy for prices. While world inflation is battering our prosperity, we have all the more reason to defend ourselves from home-grown, wage-fed, inflation.

'That is the importance of Stage Three. It is a set of guidelines approved by Parliament as a means of avoiding inflation on a scale that would impoverish us all. Some guidelines are essential for any government – at the very least in relation to those industries or occupations that are owned or financed by the State.

'But we must not overlook the purpose of such guidelines. They are an essential means of holding a tolerable balance between the industrially strong and the industrially weak. That purpose would be entirely frustrated if we were to allow those guidelines to be overthrown by the very industrial strength that they are intended to adjust.

'There is no intransigence in the Government's position here. The miners' present agreement still has more than a month to run. The offer made by the NCB under the Stage Three Code will bring them just about the largest pay increase in the history of the coal industry. They are thus being treated already as a special case. And the Government stands ready, as soon as normal working has been resumed, to start immediate discussions with the NCB and the NUM on the future of the coal industry, on improvements in pensions and in provisions for health hazards and on the pay arrangements appropriate in the longer term to the industry's future and its manpower requirements.

'The fact remains, and the TUC and the Government are agreed about this, that the TUC initiative would not protect us against the use of industrial power, by those who might be so minded to use it, in pursuit of settlements at a level which the country cannot afford. That is a risk which in present circumstances we cannot run. These are the circumstances in which the members of the NUM are now considering their position. On behalf of their fellow-citizens I hope I may be allowed to say this to the miners.

'This is not a dispute between communities. This is not a dispute between classes. This is a dispute within a community, within the community that is Britain. The longer the dispute continues the worse become the prospects for every member of our community and the worse become the prospects for building up the prosperity of our people.

'Can we not all now remember our essential unity as a nation? Traditionally we try to resolve disputes within the rules as they now are and then to get down to tolerant, moderate, discussion as to how the rules should be changed for the future. Is that not the British way?'

Grants to the North and Wales to continue

Mr. Anthony Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industrial Development, has announced arrangements for the continuation of grant aid to the North of England Development Council and the North West Industrial Development Association for a further three years. In answer to a Parliamentary question, Mr. Grant said that for each of the next three financial years, subject to certain conditions, he would be offering grant-in-aid of up to £100,000 to the NEDC and up to £67,500 to NWIDA.

The NEDC was founded in 1961 to promote the industrial growth and development of North East England. The Council was reconstituted last year and became the North of England Development Council. NWIDA was formed in 1946. It has its origins in the Lancashire Industrial Development Association formed in 1931.

The organisations' main financial support comes from the local authorities; local industry, commerce and trade unions also contribute. The opportunity has been taken to bring these grants, which were first provided at different times and in different circumstances, more into balance. The new levels of grant do take account of inflation and of the working population and the proportion of unemployed, particularly in development areas. (NEDC and NWIDA previously received £40,000 pa and £20,000 pa respectively.) The conditions to the grants remain to be negotiated with the Councils.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Mr. Peter Thomas, has announced an increased Government grant for a further three years for the Development Corporation for Wales.

Good year for Scottish Industrial Estates Corporation

In a review of the past year's operations, Mr. Forbes Macpherson, Chairman of the Scottish Industrial Estates Corporation, said that 1973 had proved to be a year of outstanding progress. During the year, about 1.8 million sq. ft. of factory space was allocated either to companies new to the estates or to established tenants requiring expansion space, a total unmatched in the past 25 years. Nearly 350 companies had discussed expansion possibilities with the Corporation and by the end of the year over 150 had made firm applications for manufacturing space. The gross factory area applied for totalled 3¾ million sq. ft., double the previous year's comparatively high figure.

Three-day restrictions remain

The Government has decided that the three-day electricity restrictions are to remain in force. Announcing the decision in the Commons on 25 January, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Minister for Energy, said: 'As the House knows, last week's energy figures showed that the sharp decline in power station fuel stocks had slowed down. This improved stock trend enabled us to restore full electricity supplies for steel production which was threatening to be a more severe constraint on output than electricity; and it held out the prospect that, if this trend was sustained, it might soon be possible to announce a more general easement of the restrictions on industry.

'Yesterday's figures confirmed the trend so that following the consultations which we had during the week with the TUC, the CBI and with representatives of commerce and of retailers, we were preparing to announce a significant relaxation of the restrictions. These would have enabled industry to get much nearer to normal working.

'But yesterday's decision by the Executive of the National Union of Mineworkers has introduced a new dimension. In face of this further threat to power station coal supplies, the Government considers that it would be imprudent to introduce the easements we had hoped.

'After the most careful consideration we have decided we must maintain the three-day electricity week. We have, however, decided to make one change in the arrangements. The burden for half of industry and commerce – for employers and employees alike – in having Saturday as one of the three days on which electricity could be used has been considerable. To remove the need for Saturday working at these firms, from next week those previously using electricity on Thurdsay to Saturday may now at their option use electricity on Wednesday to Friday.

'My Department is considering certain limited variations in exceptional circumstances where the benefit to industry generally would be considerable.'

Variation of Three-day Order

A variation Order giving effect to the above change was published on 28 January, and came into effect the following day.

It is to be stressed, however, that this variation Order will not affect the existing regulations which apply to the use of electricity for heating, lighting and advertising and display. The existing arrangements relating to shops also remain unchanged.

The following is a list of the other main Orders which remain in force:

(a) The Fuel and Electricity (Heating) (Control) Order 1973/SI 2068
(b) The Electricity (Heating) (Control) Order 1973/SI 2092
(c) The Electricity (Lighting) (Control) Order 1973/SI 2080
(d) The Electricity (Advertising, Display, etc.) (Restriction) Order 1973/SI 2091.

Monopolies Commission report on supply of plasterboard

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, announced in Parliament on 22 January that he has accepted in principle the recommendations of the Monopolies Commission in their report on the supply of plasterboard. Answering a Parliamentary question, Sir Geoffrey said:

'The report is published today (HMSO, 47p net). The Commission have found that monopoly conditions, as defined in the legislation in force when this report was submitted, prevail in the supply of plasterboard. One supplier, BPB Industries Ltd. has a total monopoly of the UK market. The Commission did not consider that this company had abused its monopoly position but was critical of its distribution practices and its relations with its market. These had resulted from a rigid system of discounts and deliveries and a policy of contact only through builders' merchants.

'As remedies the Commission recommended that BPB Industries Ltd. should:

1. Abandon their system of uniform delivered prices within the areas served by each of their depots or factories and substitute a differential price system which would take into account actual transport costs.

2. Allow collection by any user of plasterboard from the works at ex-works prices plus reasonable loading charges, subject to reasonable advance notice being given of date and time of collection of a specified minimum load.

3. Allow any users who wished to buy direct from the company to do so on the same terms as builders' merchants. This would be subject to similar conditions as to minimum load and to minimum annual purchases.

'I accept in principle the recommendations of this report. I am asking the Director General of Fair Trading to discuss the implementation of these recommendations with BPB Industries Ltd., taking account of the possible effects of the change from a uniform delivered price system.'

The Commission submitted their report on the supply of plasterboard on 12 October 1973.

The reference was made on 4 September 1972, under Section 2(1) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices (Inquiry and Control) Act 1948, as amended by the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1956, and the Monopolies and Mergers Act 1965.

Clearance of merger proposals under the Fair Trading Act 1973

On the information at present before him, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs has decided not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Burmah Oil Co. Ltd./Signal Oil and Gas Company
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds Ltd./Kirkstall Forge Engineering Ltd.
Anglo-Continental Investment and Finance Co. Ltd./Slater Walker Far Eastern Investment Trust Ltd.
Marley Ltd./Camtiles Ltd.

Pay Board report on problems of pay relativities

A four-stage procedure for dealing with claims for special treatment in an incomes policy is proposed by the Pay Board in an advisory report published on January 24.

The report (Pay Board Advisory Report 2 – Problems of pay relativities (Cmnd. 5535, HMSO 31p)) on pay relativities within and between groups of employees was laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Employment.

The report concludes that flexibility to deal with claims for special treatment is necessary and desirable in a continuing incomes policy and that procedures to achieve flexibility 'would help to make the policy itself more acceptable'.

The report explains:

it has been difficult to achieve large and lasting changes in pay relationships;
there are no clear and agreed criteria for deciding which relationships should be changed;
it is difficult to devise procedures that would seem fair both to the beneficiaries and to the rest of the community;
other views must be taken into account beside those of the group claiming special treatment;
the cost of any special treatment must be borne by other groups of employees.

The report says that consideration should be given mainly to claims for 'significant shifts in external relativities' involving large groups of workers of importance to the community. There are, however, likely to be few of these cases.

The Board does not believe it is possible to define 'self-implementing' criteria for special treatment. It therefore advises the following procedures for dealing with claims for special treatment:

A preliminary selection by the Secretary of State for Employment to decide whether, possibly on the basis of statistical or other tests, a claim for special treatment may be eligible for further examination.

An examination in depth – and in public – of each case by a single examining authority, which might be the Pay Board.

A recommendation for special treatment – if any – to be made by the examining authority and sent to the Secretary of State.

A decision by the Secretary of State to approve recommendations with or without modification. A general amendment of the Pay Code would be needed to enable his decisions to be implemented.

The report suggests that it would be an advantage if the TUC and CBI were associated with the preliminary selection process which would usually provide advice to the Secretary of State.

The Board's terms of reference indicate that the Government intends to consult both sides of industry on the basis of the report.

In a statement introducing the report, Sir Frank Figgures, chairman of the Pay Board, said: 'I want to emphasise four points.

'First, there must be a very large measure of agreement. You cannot change pay relationships between groups unless you can satisfy everyone affected by the change. And if it is a large group of workers you need the agreement – or at least the acquiescence – of the community as a whole.

'Second, we need continuity in the examination of cases for special treatment. We need a consistent and coherent approach. So the examination of cases should be by a single, permanent body.

'Third, it would be an advantage if the organisation administering the incomes policy – at present the Pay Board – examined the cases. But this is less important than having a consensus and achieving continuity.

'Fourth, we are convinced that the final decision in each case should be taken only by the Government. After the preliminary selection process – preferably involving the TUC and CBI – the examining body, which might be the Pay Board, could examine cases and make recommendations. But the decision itself must be for the elected Government of the day, acting in whatever Parliamentary context is appropriate.

'We see this report as no more than a starting point. We hope it will be thought to contain one useful idea about how to make an incomes policy more flexible and more acceptable to the community in the longer term. We hope that it will be debated and discussed and that it will be judged as a contribution to the development of an incomes policy.'

Second survey of Britain's professional scientists

In 1971, over half of Britain's professional scientists in full-time employment were employed in public and private industry, 20 per cent earned over £4,000 and nearly 40 per cent were in managerial or administrative positions.

These facts emerge from a survey* of professional scientists and applied scientists undertaken in 1971 by the five science institutes within the Council of Science and Technology Institutes. Details of age, employer, field of employment and income were obtained from 28,368 respondents in full-time employment. The survey shows that very nearly three-quarters of these members of the five professional societies were less than 45 years old. Nearly two-thirds were engaged in research and development or in other scientific or technical work. Nearly half were employed by industrial concerns or private companies and 7 per cent by public corporations. Only 1 per cent of the respondents were self-employed.

The respondents under 35 were largely at the lower end of the income range. Of the 12,747 who were aged below 35, only 6 per cent were earning more than £3,000 per annum. On the other hand, 38 per cent of the older group were also earning less than £3,000.

This is the second comprehensive survey of professional scientists and applied scientists to be undertaken by the Council of Science and Technology Institutes, the earlier one being for 1968. As on the previous occasion, material already published separately by the five institutes has been brought together in a publication available on sale from HMSO.

* *The Survey of Professional Scientists 1971* (Studies in Technological Manpower No. 4), Department of Trade and Industry and the Council of Science and Technology Institutes (HMSO, price £2 net).

The problems of diverting air traffic from London

No one had yet shown a way of diverting air traffic, the bulk of which originated or terminated in the South-east, to a spread of airports outside that region, Mr. Michael Heseltine, Minister for Aerospace and Shipping, said on 25 January.

Addressing the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce dinner, the Minister referred to his visit to the East Midlands Airport earlier in the day and said there was a dilemma that faced a Minister for Aerospace when asked to consider the possibility of further development of provincial airports rather than the continued expansion of airports in the South East.

'It is a dilemma heightened by your success,' he continued. 'In nine years Castle Donington has made its mark as one of our leading airports. The runway has been extended and many other improvements have been made. There is a network of internal and European scheduled services as well as a substantial charter and inclusive tour business. The number of passengers flying to the Airport has more than doubled in the last five years.

'It is no wonder that the recent report by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce favoured developing regional airports like Castle Donington rather than building a new airport for the South East at Maplin.

'But there is another side of the argument. Most civil aviation in this country is international rather than domestic. It is inescapable that many of the foreign airlines who contribute a large part of air transport movements would find it uneconomic to serve more than one city in the United Kingdom. They insist on this city being the capital.

'Similarly the main British airlines operate from the London area and only for a small proportion of international routes can they economically fly direct from other airports.

'In forecasts of future traffic growth it has always been assumed that regional airports could take an increasing share of the UK total, but no one has yet shown a way of diverting traffic the bulk of which originates or terminates in the South East to a spread of airports outside that region. Nonetheless, the latest forecasts still show demand concentrated in the South East.

Civil Aviation Authority studies

'The Civil Aviation Authority are looking now at the way in which the airport needs of the East Midlands are likely to develop. This work adds to the East Midlands and Birmingham Airport studies commissioned locally and I would not comment until I am able to see these works together. But let there be no doubt that it is always tempting to argue for diversion until the practical consequences of doing so are considered. There are powerful economic reasons why services have developed so much faster in the South East. Foreign airlines will not be persuaded to allow British airlines to serve their capitals if we expect them to serve only the provinces. I am continually reminded of the difficulties of diverting traffic to Maplin. It will be not one jot easier to divert outside the South East particularly to airports less isolated than a coastal site – where the faster the growth the more intense the environmental resistance.'

Fuel allocations 'as fair as possible'

The Government will continue to be as fair as possible to all airlines in its allocation of fuel supplies, taking into account their different types of operations and commercial and financial bases. This was stated by Mr. Michael Heseltine, Minister for Aerospace and Shipping, in a speech to Luton Chamber of Commerce on 23 January.

He said that about half the available aviation fuel in this country had to be allocated to the foreign airlines, and this allocation had been made without discrimination.

'We have done so, however, on the proviso that foreign governments follow a similar policy, so that British airlines receive treatment from foreign fuel suppliers no less favourable than that accorded to the national carrier of those countries,' he declared.

Mr. Heseltine paid tribute to the way in which the airlines had responded to and overcome many of the difficulties caused by restrictions on aviation fuel, now being supplied to the airlines on the basis of a 22–23 per cent shortfall of their anticipated requirements.

The Minister added: 'I am often asked if I can forecast how much fuel will be available in the easter and summer holiday periods. I wish I could, but I am afraid that no one can make such a forecast, and I am not going to try to do so today.'

Domestic air fares to rise 20 per cent?

Airlines operating domestic services have withdrawn their applications to the Civil Aviation Authority for a 6 per cent increase in domestic fares to offset increased fuel costs. They have, however, made other applications for domestic fares increases with effect from 1 March 1974, to meet a wider range of cost increases, including those relating to fuel. These applications which are with a few exceptions for an increase of 20 per cent in United Kingdom fares, will be heard by the Authority on 20 February 1974.

The closing date for objections or representations on the applications to be made to the Authority will be by 13 February 1974.

Loss of MV 'Glen Shiel'

The public Formal Investigation into the circumstances of the loss of the mv *Glen Shiel* on 29 June 1973 will open at 10.30 a.m. on 27 March 1974 at the Sheriff Court, The County Buildings, 149 Ingram Street, Glasgow G1. It is expected to close on 29 March.

The *Glen Shiel* was on a voyage from Ayr to Glasgow with a cargo of coal when she foundered in the early hours of the morning. She had a crew of five and one passenger and of these only one person, a deck hand who was washed ashore at Troon, survived. The body of the passenger was later picked up by a helicopter but the bodies of the remaining four crew members were never found.

Government – Industry partnership

Lord Aberdare, Minister Without Portfolio, said on 25 January that a partnership between Government and industry 'is the only way to achieve a better economic performance'.

Addressing a Croydon Technical College management studies course at Eastbourne, Lord Aberdare said:

'To a large degree this means export performance. Who can doubt – after the events of the last few months – that Britain is going to need now more than ever every possible customer there is to be found.

'For the next few years in particular – until North Sea oil is in production – we are going to need a tremendous effort. All this on top of the trade deficit we were running because of the drastic determination in other terms of trade and the increase in our machinery and raw materials imports needed to sustain our switch to a high growth economy.

'Any strategy for growth in the British economy must be founded on firms' willingness and ability to trade profitably and increasingly overseas. In 1973 we started to achieve a real break-through in export markets. There was a marked increase in the level of international trade and British exporters' sales soared even higher. With our very strong price competitiveness overseas we were well placed to consolidate an export expansion which alone can support a decent rate of growth in this country.

'In 1973 as a whole our exports were 26 per cent bigger by value than a year earlier and about 13 per cent bigger by volume. This, incidentally, compares with a 6 per cent average volume increase in the previous six years.

'Looking ahead we clearly shall not reach anything like our full export potential – and consequently we shall not win as high living standards as we might – if we have to compete with obstacles of our own making in this country.

'Of course, greatly increased oil prices will add considerably to our import bill which makes the business of trade promotion all the more vital.

'Successive Governments have given a high priority to trade promotion and none more so than the present Government. Through the medium of the British Overseas Trade Board the Government deploys a wide range of export services.

'One further way in which the Government can give a great deal of practical help is through the Export Credits Guarantee Department. ECGD insures some 12,000 exporters and about 40 per cent of British exports every year.

'ECGD supports industry's export drive in two main ways. First by insuring exporters against non-payment. In this way ECGD shoulders some of the risks of selling overseas. It helps to make exporting and the expansion of overseas markets a more attractive proposition. Incidentally ECGD insures against both political and buyer risks. Secondly ECGD support gives firms access to low interest rates for export finance from their banks. All in all the Department is an important support underpinning Britain's export effort.'

Mr. Onslow gets additional responsibility in consumer affairs

Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has given Mr. Cranley Onslow responsibility for assisting Sir Geoffrey Howe with consumer affairs in the Commons, following Mr. Peter Emery's move to the Dept. of Energy.

Mr. Onslow now becomes Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Aerospace, Shipping and Consumer Affairs.

Committee on company accounts and inflation

On 27 November 1973, Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced that Mr. Francis Sandilands was to chair the independent Committee set up to consider the various methods of adjusting company accounts to reflect changes in costs and prices. The following have now accepted invitations from the Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to serve as members of this Committee:

Lord Caldecote, Chairman, Delta Metal Co. Ltd.; Mr. D. R. Chilvers, Partner in Coopers and Lybrand; Mr. Victor Feather, President of the European Trade Union Confederation; Mr. M. A. Inwards, Financial Controller, Pye Unicam Ltd.; Mr. E. Kaye, Chairman and Governing Director, Lansing-Bagnall Ltd.; Mr. A. J. W. S. Leonard, Director, Shell International Petroleum Ltd.; Mrs. C. M. Miles, financial and economic consultant; Mr. Michael Nolan, QC; Professor W. Reid, London Graduate School of Business Studies; Mr. P. Shelbourne, Chairman, Drayton Group Ltd.; and Professor R. Turvey, Economic Advisor to Scientific Control Systems Ltd.

The Committee held its first meeting on Monday, 21 January 1974. The Committee's secretariat is located at St. Helens, 1 Undershaft, London EC3 (tel. 01-283 7500, ext. 2667/2953).

Inspectors to investigate Cornhill Consolidated Group Limited

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, announced on January 25 the appointment of Mr. David Charles Calcutt, QC and Mr. John Anthony Perrot Whinney, FCA, to act as Inspectors under Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948 to investigate the affairs of Cornhill Consolidated Group Limited and to report thereon.

Section 165(b) of the Companies Act, 1948 empowers the Secretary of State to appoint Inspectors to investigate the affairs of a company when there are circumstances suggesting fraud, misfeasance or other misconduct, or when members have not been given all the information which they might reasonably expect.

Restrictions relaxed for steel industry

The Department of Energy has issued a general licence permitting the use of electricity on any premises in the iron and steel industry which are used for certain specified purposes. The licence took effect from midnight on Friday, 18 January. Details of this licence were released immediately by the Department that evening, and are being re-issued by way of confirmation.

The specified purposes stated in the licence are:

(1) the preparation of iron ore for smelting;
(2) the production of metallurgical coke for blast furnace use;
(3) the smelting of iron ore in a blast furnace or the production of iron by any process;
(4) the production of steel for conversion into rolled or forged steel products;
(5) the rolling or re-rolling, with or without heat, of steel, for the purpose of reducing the cross sectional area thereof;
(6) the production of tinplate or terneplate;
(7) the production of iron or steel castings;
(8) the production of tubes or pipes of iron or steel;
(9) the production of bright steel bars or sections or of steel wire;
(10) the production with heat of iron or steel forgings but not including the processes specified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of paragraph 6 of Schedule 3 to the Iron and Steel Act 1953;

to the extent that the use of electricity is required for these purposes and for essential operations associated therewith.

Many firms affected by this licence will already have been granted special arrangements for continuous electricity supply under directions issued by DTI Regional Offices. Since these directions were not issued under SI 1973/2172 they will accordingly be revoked forthwith and replaced by the arrangements set out above.

Loopholes closed

Mr. Patrick Jenkin has signed an amending Order which closes two loopholes in the three-day electricity Order. The variation came into effect from midnight 22 January.

The amending Order:

1. amends the exception which permits use of electricity for routine maintenance and emergency repair of plant or equipment to exclude not only motor vehicles but also maintenance or emergency repair of domestic electrical appliances including television and radio sets;
2. makes it illegal for a shop which did not sell food before 13 December 1973 to sell some food now and so claim exemption from the restrictions. (New food shops are not affected.)

Concession

The amending Order makes one concession. It permits the overnight heating of an office or showroom on industrial premises.

The amending Order is entitled the Electricity (Industrial and Commercial Use) (Control) (Amendment) Order 1974, SI 1974 No. 78. It is on sale at HM Stationery Office.

Energy stocks in mid-January

The Department of Energy announced the following details of energy stocks to 19 January last week.

	Week ending					
	29/9/73	22/12/73	29/12/73	5/1/74	12/1/74	19/1/74
COAL						
Production (M tons) (b)	2.6	1.8	0.4	0.8	1.8	1.8
Undistributed stocks (M tons) (c)	13.3	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.4	10.2
Stocks at power stations (M tons) (d)	20.3	15.1	14.5	13.9	13.7	13.6
Consumption at power stations (M tons)	1.4	1.6	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.2
Receipts at power stations (M tons)	1.4	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.1
OIL						
Stocks held by oil companies (M tons) (e)	23.1	18.5	18.9	19.0	19.2	18.8
Days' supply (e)	76	55	56	56	57	55
Stocks at power stations (M tons) (f)	0.62	0.77	0.75	0.74	0.72	0.73
Consumption at power stations (M tons) (f)	0.22	0.21	0.23	0.26	0.27	0.28
Receipts at power stations (M tons) (f)	0.18	0.25	0.21	0.25	0.25	0.29
ELECTRICITY						
Estimated savings (%) (g)	—	17	20	21	19	20

NOTES:
(a) M tons = million tons

COAL
(b) In a normal week, unaffected by holidays or industrial disputes, some 2.7 million tons might be produced.
(c) At the latest date only about 3.6 million tons is suitable for use in power stations, and of this total some 1.8 million tons can be used only in the S. Wales area.
(d) Because of physical handling difficulties and some unevenness in the distribution of stocks a progressive disruption of the electricity system begins to occur when the overall stock level at power stations gets down to about 7 million tons and thereafter unplanned disconnections can be expected within days.

OIL
(e) Total UK oil stocks at 19/1/74 amounted to 18.8 million tons or 55 days' supply at the normal level of consumption at this time of year. These are held as crude and process oil at the refineries and as products at various points in the distribution system. Certain minimum stock levels must be maintained if the refining and distribution system is to operate effectively. At the 45 day level (about 15 million tons) local shortages would begin to appear and below this level would become increasingly severe. The most difficult situation is likely to be in industrial oils, especially fuel oil.
(f) Main oil burning stations only.

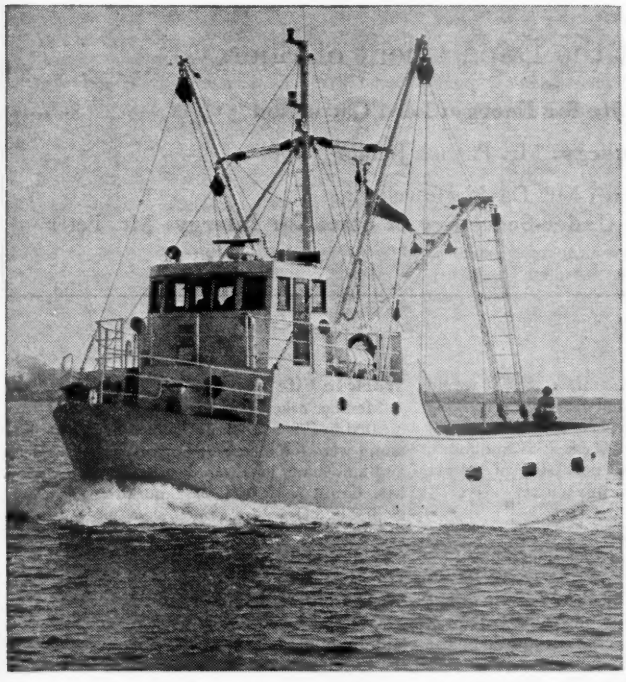
ELECTRICITY
(g) Savings are based on a comparison with estimated demand in the absence of restrictions.

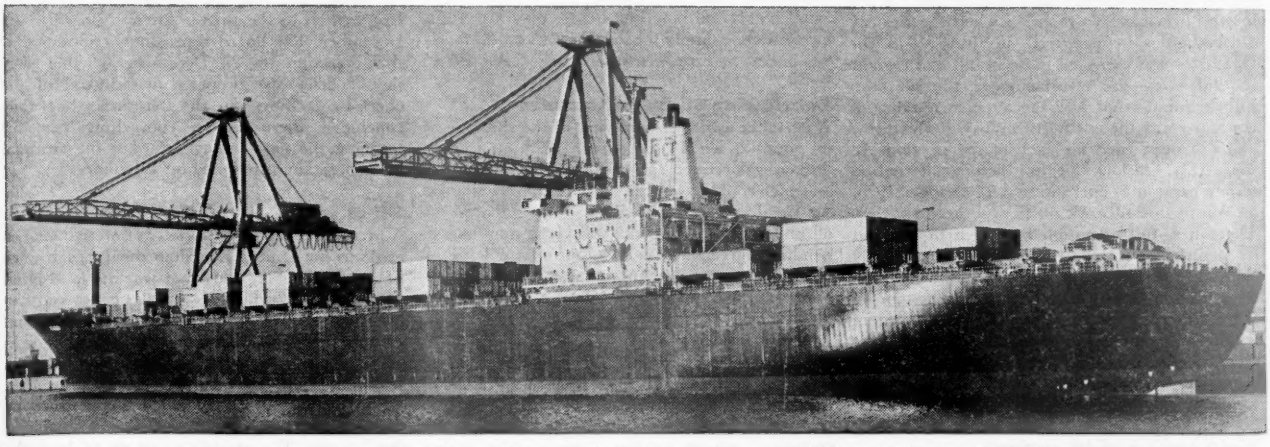
Wave of business for British shipbuilders

Last year saw a sharp upturn in orders won by British shipbuilders, large and small. The pictures give examples of the wide range of new craft constructed in British yards.

Right: Running before a strong wind with her spinnaker billowing, the sloop 'Bumblebee II' is one of a new class of fast yachts introduced at the Earls Court International Boat Show this month by Southern Ocean Shipyard Ltd., Poole, Dorset. Designated the 'Spanker 12.8', the class is the outcome of extensive tank tests and the company's long experience in glass fibre design.

Below: One of a pair of shrimp trawlers built for the Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation by James W. Cook (Wivenhoe) Ltd., Essex. Total cost of 'Golda' and 'Bagda' was £160,000.





The world's largest and fastest refrigerated container ship, the 'Remuera', built by Swan Hunter Shipbuilders of Wallsend for P & O. Gross tonnage is 42,000 tons and service speed 23.14 knots. There is space for 1,151 insulated containers and 552 general containers.

Parliament

Monday, 21 January

Coking coal for steel
Asked what assessment had been made of the steel shortage arising from the lack of coking coal and what consideration had been given to a system of priority allocations of available steel, Mr. Grant replied: 'BSC is now receiving about 60 per cent of normal supplies of coking coal, but is achieving steel production at a somewhat higher proportion of normal. It estimates that up to 12 January it had lost some 357,000 tonnes of steel output through shortage of coal. With steel supplies so greatly reduced, there is no room for any general system of priority allocations. If requirements were met in full over a substantial area, then others would be denied steel altogether and parts of industry would be brought to a standstill. Nevertheless there are some activities which we must try as far as possible to keep going during the emergency – the next stage of the North Sea oil and gas programme is an obvious case. The Government is in touch with the steel industry on the identification of such special requirements and the maintenance of essential services.'

Report on 'Festivity'
In reply to a Member who wanted to know what action was proposed in the light of the recommendation contained in the report of the committee of inquiry concerning the vessel *Festivity*, Mr. Onslow said: 'The Court's views on manning will be taken into account in the use of the powers in the Merchant Shipping Act 1970 to prescribe minimum standards of manning for merchant ships. In the meantime this aspect will be discussed with representatives of the industry with a view to preventing a recurrence of this sort of case. My Department is also pursuing the Court's suggestion that the possibility of certain modifications to the steering and electrical systems be explored, and will draw attention to the recommendations for the proper reading and recording of draughts and the need for practice in hand-steering on vessels equipped with automatic pilots.'

Heathrow runways
A Member wanted to know whether the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was satisfied that the northern and southern runways at Heathrow Airport were being evenly used now that the reslabbing of the southern runway had been completed, and whether he would give composite figures for numbers of planes and duration of use for the previous two months; when the runway alternation system agreed in June 1973 for Heathrow was expected to be in full and regular use following the resurfacing of the southern runway; and what was the average number of hours per day the northern runway at Heathrow had not been used for each of the previous 12 weeks. Mr. Onslow said that the new alternation system came into operation on 22 October 1973, on completion of work on the southern runway. Thereafter, full operation had been interrupted by maintenance work on the northern runway from 15 to 23 November, and, since 12 December, by a fault in the instrument landing system on the southern runway. The alternation system would be restored as soon as this fault was rectified. The detailed figures requested were not immediately available but he would write to the Member as soon as possible.

Night testing of jet engines
Mr. Onslow, in response to a Member who wanted the banning of all ground test running of jet engines at night at Heathrow, said it would not be practicable to ban all ground test running at night. The British Airports Authority aimed to keep test running to an essential minimum, but he was exploring the possibility of further reducing disturbance from this source.

Fire precaution grants
In reply to a Member who asked if consideration would be given to making payments to British Tourist Boards to enable them to provide grants or loans to small hotels and other establishments serving tourists, for the purpose of meeting the costs of installing up-to-date fire protection equipment, Mr. Grant said: 'No. Proprietors of small hotels and boarding houses may in certain circumstances apply for loans from local authorities under the Fire Precaution (Loans) Act 1973.'

Lubricating oil from Romania
A Member asked why, in view of the shortage of oil supplies, on 11 December 1973, an import licence was refused for 4,000 tons of lubricating oil which could have been supplied from Romania. Sir Geoffrey Howe replied that the embargo on oil imports from Romania was being maintained pending agreement on an appropriate level of compensation for the nationalisation of British assets in 1948 and other claims.

Lonrho inquiry
When asked if he would reconsider the terms of reference of the inquiry into Lonrho and extend them, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said that the inspectors' terms of reference were determined only by the statutory powers under which they were appointed. No limit had been placed upon the scope of their inquiries.

Work in Fife
A Member asked how many new jobs had been created in Fife in each of the past five years; how many were for men and how many for women; and how many jobs were lost in the same period. Mr. Grant said that the information was not available. However, unemployment was 900 lower at the end of 1973 compared with five years previously.

West London Air Terminal
Mr. Onslow, when asked what recent discussions had been held with British Airways regarding the continuation of facilities at West London Air Terminal, said that the Minister for Aerospace had written to the British Airways Board on 21 December. The Board accordingly considered at their meeting on 28 December whether they should defer the proposed withdrawal of the check-in facilities at the terminal, but they concluded there was a compelling case for bringing the new arrangements at the terminal into operation as planned on 1 January.

Oil at sea
A Member asked what stocks of oil were in and en route to the United Kingdom during each week from 1 November, and what was the level of oil reserves below which it would be necessary to introduce rationing. 'In the weeks ending 17 and 25 November and 1 December oil stocks stood at 64, 63 and 61 days' supply respectively,' said Mr. Jenkin in reply. 'Estimates of oil stocks since then are in the weekly statistical statement issued by the Department of Energy, which is available in the Library. The amount of oil en route to the United Kingdom varies very widely but over a long period of normal trade has averaged up to

Ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry: Mr. Peter Walker

Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs: Sir Geoffrey Howe
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade: Lord Limerick

Minister for Industrial Development: Mr. Christopher Chataway
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industrial Development: Mr. Anthony Grant

Minister for Aerospace and Shipping: Mr. Michael Heseltine
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Aerospace, Shipping, and Consumer Affairs: Mr. Cranley Onslow

Minister without Portfolio: Lord Aberdare

Ministers at the Department of Energy

Secretary of State for Energy: Lord Carrington

Minister for Energy: Mr. Patrick Jenkin

Minister of State: Mr. David Howell
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy: Mr. Peter Emery

30 days' supply. In present circumstances it would be misleading to give estimates on a week-to-week basis. Any decision to introduce rationing would depend on supply prospects as well as stock levels at any given time.'

Naphtha supplies

In reply to a Member who wanted to know what were his latest estimates of the availability of naphtha to the British petro-chemical industry, and what short-fall he anticipated over the next two months, Mr. Jenkin said he was examining the prospects for all fuels. He could not at present predict what the level of availability of naphtha for the petro-chemical industry might be in the coming months, but he had no reason to believe that supplies would deteriorate in the near future.

North Sea oil investment

The Minister of Energy was asked what was the total investment in North Sea oil exploration; what was the British proportion of that investment; what results had been gained in new investment; and what was the value of contracts for British companies since he set up the Offshore Supplies Unit. Mr. Jenkin said: 'The companies estimate that up to the end of 1973 they have spent about £1,000 million on exploration and development on the UK Continental Shelf, of which about one-third has been on exploration. A breakdown of this figure between British and foreign investment is not available. With regard to the last part of the question, the information will be available when we receive from the oil companies the full returns of their purchases in 1973.'

Electoral roll printing

The Minister for Energy was asked when he exempted from the three-day week those firms with orders to print the electoral rolls by 15 February. In response Mr. Emery said that instructions were issued to the Department's Regional Offices on 2 January that licences could be issued to firms printing electoral registers where this was necessary to meet the statutory deadline of 15 February.

Offshore oil estimates

A Member asked the Minister for Energy if his department still accepted the estimates given in the International Management and Engineering Group's report for the UK industry's share of the offshore oil industry by the late 1970s. Mr. Howell replied: 'The estimates given in the IMEG Report of the UK's prospects in the offshore market for equipment and services were of course the professional opinion of the authors, and they were considered on this basis. In relation to the estimated involvement of British enterprise the broad recommendations were accepted as a helpful basis for planning. However a study is in hand of the North Sea programme which may change some of the predictions in the report.'

Norwegian orders for North Sea equipment

The Minister for Energy was asked if he would publish estimates of orders for UK equipment placed by Norwegian manufacturers of steel and concrete production platforms and drilling rigs to be used in the UK sector of the Continental Shelf, and where possible give the estimates as a percentage of the total manufacturing price. In reply Mr. Howell said that some UK equipment will be used in the production units of the platforms. The proportion of the total manufacturing price could be as high as 25 per cent in a particular case.

Three-day working

Questions were put asking for a statement on the impact of three-day working on smaller businesses, and asking what representations had been received from organisations representing small firms on the effects of three-day working. In reply, Mr. Grant said that at his request he had had meetings with the CBI Small Firms Council, the Smaller Businesses Association, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and the National Chamber of Trade. Although the present situation posed serious problems for small firms, as well as large, his information was that the majority of small firms were coping well with a high degree of co-operation between employers and employees. He was watching the position closely and maintaining direct contact with the sector.

To another Member who wanted to know what effect the three-day working week had had on the economy in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, and how long the imposition of the three-day working week was expected to continue, Mr. Grant said that output at a relatively high level was being achieved owing to a combination of managerial ingenuity and excellent co-operation from labour. The relaxation for the steel industry beginning that day would particularly benefit Scunthorpe, Sheffield and Rotherham. The Secretary of State for Energy would keep under review the present restrictions on working.

Rolls-Royce workers' shares

A Member asked how many employees and former employees of Rolls-Royce Ltd. held ordinary shares in the company issued in 1955 in exchange for workers' shares, what was the total number of such shares now eligible for settlement by the receiver-liquidator, and what was the par value of these shares. Mr. Heseltine, in reply, said: 'I understand that there were 2,066 individual holders of workers shares, totalling 145,000 shares, who received one ordinary share of a nominal value of £1 for each workers' share, but that there are no records of how many of these shares, which were freely transferable, are still held by employees or former employees of Rolls-Royce Ltd.'

GATT negotiations

Sir Geoffrey Howe, in response to a Member who requested a statement on progress in the GATT negotiations, said that, following the official opening of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in September last year in Tokyo, the Trade Negotiations Committee, which was set up then by Ministers, held its first meeting in Geneva in October. Discussion since then had centred on the most appropriate structure for the preparatory work and for the negotiations proper. These could begin once the United States Trade Reform Bill, which gave the United States its negotiating authority, had been passed.

Patent offices

A Member asked when it was expected that the proposals for a European patent system would be completed, what action was being taken to ensure that the United Kingdom Patent Office was maintained at full establishment in the meantime, and what recent discussions had been held with the EEC regarding the future of the Patents System. Sir Geoffrey Howe replied: 'The European Patent Convention was signed in October 1973 and the Community Patent Convention, which regulates the effects of the European patent in EEC countries, is expected to be concluded in May 1974. Negotiations with other EEC countries and the Commission on the Community Patent Convention have taken place since the United Kingdom became a member of the EEC. Preparatory work on organising the European Patent Office will begin shortly in the hope that the new system will be operating about 1976/77. It is considered essential to maintain the United Kingdom Patent Office at full strength for the time being and, for this purpose, a campaign has begun to recruit people of all ages, some of whom may wish to transfer to the European Patent Office when the time comes.

The same Member asked if the Secretary of State was aware that in the British Patent Office the number of unexamined applications awaiting attention had increased to approximately 50,000, and that the average time for primary examinations of applications had risen from nine months to a year in the past 12 months, and what action he was taking to speed up the examination and dispatch of applications. He also wanted to know if the Minister was aware that in the British Patent Office the number of examining staff below the grade of principal examiner dropped from 503 at the end of 1972 to 471 at the end of September 1973, if he was satisfied with the remuneration and conditions of examiners, and having regard to the fact that the response to a recent offer of seven-year contracts had proved negligible, whether he expected to maintain examining staff at the maximum strength of 530 examiners. Replying, Sir Geoffrey Howe said that during 1973 the number of patent specifications awaiting examination rose by about 2,000 to 49,130 and the average delay in issuing the examiner's first report increased by about two weeks to just over 12 months He was aware that the examining staff below principal examiner fell from 503 at the end of 1972 to 471 by September 1973. By promotion into the examining grades and by the appointment of examiners on seven-year contracts this had now increased to 485 and some further entrants on seven-year contracts were still expected. He was commencing a recruiting campaign for people of all ages, some on a permanent basis and some on period appointments. The remuneration and conditions of employment were under constant review; they were, of course, largely controlled by the conditions of the general service classes to which they were linked and by competing claims for accommodation respectively.

Maritime communications satellite

Asked what recent discussions he had had regarding maritime navigation and communications satellites, Mr. Heseltine replied: 'At the European Space Conference of July 1973, the United Kingdom agreed to participate, with a majority contribution, in the development of an experimental maritime communications satellite known as MAROTS. This project is now going ahead under the auspices of the European Space Research Organisation (to be replaced by the European Space Agency) with launch expected in 1977.'

DTI expenditure

Mr. Walker was asked if he would specify the distribution of the reductions in the rate of growth in public expenditure announced on 17 December last between the individual programmes for which his department was responsible, and the consequential changes to take effect during the course of the current financial year. The Secretary of State said that a breakdown by programme of the DTI share of the savings for 1974/75 was given in his reply to a question on 21 December. He did not expect any significant effect on DTI expenditure under the trade, industry and employment, and roads and transport, programmes in 1973/74. Any effect in 1973/74 on capital expenditure by the nationalised industries would depend on how the savings were apportioned within the industries themselves, but it was likely to be small.

Imports of non-essential consumer durables

Asked what recent study his Department had made of the need to limit imports into the UK of non-essential consumer durables from non-Community countries, Sir Geoffrey Howe said that the Department kept the pattern of imports under review but no special study on the lines

suggested had recently been made. Increased imports of non-essential consumer durables from non-Community countries represented only a small part of the general rise in imports, a substantial proportion of which was accounted for by fuel, industrial materials and machinery.

Insurance companies' returns
Sir Geoffrey Howe was asked if he would list in the Official Report those insurance companies who had not yet submitted their latest annual returns to him, together with those who are currently under investigation. The Minister, in reply, said nine small insurance companies had not deposited returns within the time allowed. He was pursuing these returns urgently. Publication of the names of the companies involved could give rise to unjustified concern and so frustrate the purpose of the Acts.

Motor insurance companies
In reply to a Member who asked Sir Geoffrey Howe if he would list in the Official Report those motor insurance companies that he had restrained from trading, the Minister said that motor insurance companies currently subject to restrictions on business under Section 68 of the Companies Act 1967 or Section 13 of the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 were: Bastion Insurance Co. Ltd., Falcon Insurance Co. Ltd. and Undeb Insurance Co. Ltd.

Petrol rationing costs
It was asked of the Minister of Energy how many newspaper insertions, and at what cost, were used to publicise the distribution of petrol rationing coupons, and how many newspaper insertions, and at what cost, were used to publicise power control regulations. Mr. Emery replied: 'In order to publicise the distribution of petrol coupons 310 newspaper insertions were used at a cost of £285,638. This helped successfully to ensure the issue of over 15.2 million basic ration books and the issue of business rations, with a minimum of trouble. The introduction of the various power control regulations particularly the Three Day Order, affected the whole of industry and commerce, so it was necessary to obtain the widest publicity possible; 134 insertions, costing £183,029, were used.'

Fuel oil allocations
Mr. Jenkin was asked whether he was aware that to base the supply of fuel oil upon last year's consumption penalised those firms which had no cause to use fuel oil except as a stand-by; whether he was further aware that William Playne and Co. Ltd. of Longfords Mills, Minchinhampton, whose trade is over 80 per cent export was penalised because of this; and whether he would review the situation and make a statement. The Minister said that, under the allocation scheme, a firm was not entitled to supplies of oil for stand-by generators for use when electricity is restricted by the three-day working regulations. He was, however, looking into the specific case raised and would write to the Member.

Oil and coal stocks
A Member asked Mr. Jenkin what was his estimate of the numbers of days' reserve stocks of oil and coal currently held, and how it compared with the figures for 13 December 1971. He replied: 'The Department of Energy issues estimates of oil and coal stocks in weekly statistical statements and I would refer the hon. Member to the copies available in the library of the House. The level of oil stocks on 13 December 1971 is not known but on 30 November and 31 December 1971 stocks stood at 76 and 72 days' supply, respectively. On 11 December 1971, the National Coal Board and the power stations held 10.8 and 16.3 million tons of coal respectively.'

Space expenditure
When asked if he would give the respective annual amounts being spent by European countries on space projects, and set out on what aspects the UK contribution was to be spent, including any portion on launchers, Mr. Heseltine gave the following figures on estimated 1973 expenditure on European projects:

£ million

	European Space Research Organisation (ESRO)	European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO)
United Kingdom	8.0	—
West Germany	12.3	11.2
France	10.7	9.9
Italy	6.4	0.1
Netherlands	1.6	0.1
Belgium	1.8	0.7
Sweden	1.9	—
Switzerland	1.4	—
Denmark	1.0	—
Spain	1.0	—

Tuesday, 22 January

Whisky to Japan
In answer to a Member who wanted to know what quantities of Scotch whisky in bottles were shipped to Japan in 1970, 1971 and 1972, and what was the latest available figure for 1973, Sir Geoffrey Howe said that bottled whisky was not separately distinguished in the 1970 trade statistics. The figures for Scotch and Northern Irish whisky for 1971, 1972 and January to November 1973 were 0.8, 0.9 and 2.3 million proof gallons, respectively.

Motor cycle fuel tanks
Asked what reduction in exports from the UK he estimated was attributable to the ban on the use of non-metallic fuel tanks for motor cycles, Mr. Grant said that he had no evidence that the ban on the use of non-metallic fuel tanks for motor cycles had led to any reduction in UK export trade.

Early television closing
A Member wanted to know, excluding electricity generated at nuclear power stations, what saving had been made in the consumption of coal and oil at power stations by closing television broadcasting at 10.30 pm, and how this saving had been identified. In reply, Mr. Jenkin said that the Electricity Industry had estimated that the overall saving of electricity was 1 million units, or 2 per cent of normal usage during the last 1½ hours of the day. It was very difficult to estimate the precise savings, but he had asked the CEGB to see whether they could produce an estimate of the actual fuel savings achieved. It was essential that we obtained all savings, however small, which could be made by the domestic sector.

Short-time working
A Member asked whether the Minister for Energy was aware that under appropriate arrangements a five-day week could produce more for less power than can a three-day week; whether he was further aware that these circumstances applied in the cases of the exporters Listers of Dursley and Benson's International of Brimscombe, and whether he would now issue instructions that these firms be given permission to work a five-day week, provided the Midlands Electricity Board could provide the power within their allocation. Replying, Mr. Emery said that both these firms had applied for special treatment to the DTI Regional Office at Bristol and they had been granted continuous working for a substantial part of their process.

Another Member wanted to know when the Minister expected to be able to give his decision on whether or not to set up a committee to hear appeals, particularly from smaller firms, on the working of the three-day week. Mr. Emery replied that it was not considered necessary to set up such a committee. Appeals should be addressed to the appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Fuel and lighting concessions
A Member asked if the same fuel and lighting concessions now being given to certain trade unions would be extended to professional, trade, employers and other associations with whom the former had regular contact or negotiations. Mr. Emery said that such concessions had already been extended to trade unions and professional, employer and other associations where they were essential for dealing with matters arising from the present emergency, and only for the matters so arising. Applications should be made to the appropriate Regional Offices of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Sulphur content of fuel oil
A Member asked if the use of North Sea oil would be permitted at the proposed Insbrook Power Station, as this was a light oil and assurance had been given that no oil with a greater sulphur content than 3 per cent would be used. Mr. Howell, in reply, said it was a condition of the consent to the siting of this power station that no fuel oil having a sulphur content greater than 3 per cent should be burnt in the station without approval. He did not, however, consider it appropriate to specify the geographical source of any oils burnt.

Youth clubs
A Member asked if, under the emergency regulations, the reopening would be sanctioned of youth clubs in those areas in Wales so far affected by the emergency regulations. In reply, Mr. Emery said that youth clubs were not prohibited from opening but must comply with the orders regulating heating and lighting insofar as these applied to the premises where they met. He believed that most youth clubs were only too willing to help in this fuel crisis.

Power station coal stocks
Mr. Jenkin, in answer to a Member who wanted to know what had been the level of power station coal stocks for each week since 1 October, stated that on 6, 13, 30 and 27 October 1973, stocks were 20.3, 20.1, 19.8 and 19.6 million tons, respectively. Stocks up to 5 January were given in an answer on 15 January. The most up-to-date information on coal stocks was published in the weekly Press statement of the Department of Energy.

Fuel for outer London taxis
Asked if arrangements would be made for special allocations of fuel to be made to garages in outer London which had given undertakings to the Owner Drivers' Society of Taximen to provide fuel for taxis whose owners lived in outer London, Mr. Emery said he was not aware of any problems at the present time in regard to fuel supplies for such taxi drivers. However he would be pleased to receive any further information.

Wednesday, 23 January

North Sea exploration accidents

To a Member who asked how many accidents had been recorded in the Scottish sector of the North Sea in each year since oil exploration started in respect of the oil exploration industry, and how many of the accidents had been fatal, Mr. Howell gave the following information: Deaths and injuries (exluding minor injuries) arising from accidents in that part of the United Kingdom designated area of the North Sea lying to the east of Scotland were:

Year	Deaths	Injuries (excluding minor injuries)
1967	—	1
1968	—	5
1969	1	4
1970	—	5
1971	1	5
1972	1	6
1973	3	12

North Sea oil industry requirements

Answering a question on whether steps would be taken to safeguard all the infrastructure requirements necessary for the North Sea oil industry from the effects of three-day working, Mr. Howell said that suppliers who could not meet essential requirements for the North Sea oil industry in the three days use of electricity now permitted should submit a case for consideration to the Department of Energy through the appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Thursday, 24 January

Coal stocks

Mr. Jenkin was asked to state the level of coal stocks at power stations in Great Britain (CEGB and SSEB) at each week between 1 November and 30 April during each winter since 1968-69. He replied that power station transmission was operated on a national basis and information on power station stocks was published for Great Britain as a whole. Details of power station coal stocks in the winter of 1973/74 had been given on 15 January (*Trade and Industry*, 24 January, page 136). Figures for the earlier years were as follows:

POWER STATION COAL STOCKS – MILLION TONS

Stocks for weeks including	1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
28/10	14.1	13.5	12.5	18.4	17.1
4/11	14.0	13.5	12.2	18.4	17.2
11/11	13.9	13.4	11.7	18.0	17.4
18/11	13.8	13.1	11.0	17.6	17.2
25/11	13.8	12.8	10.7	17.1	17.0
2/12	13.8	12.4	10.5	16.7	16.9
9/12	13.6	12.1	10.2	16.3	16.9
16/12	13.2	11.7	10.1	16.1	16.9
23/12	12.5	11.0	9.6	15.7	16.8
30/12	11.7	10.1	8.7	15.0	16.2
6/1	11.3	9.2	7.9	14.3	15.7
13/1	11.0	8.9	7.7	12.8	15.5
20/1	10.9	8.6	7.7	11.4	15.2
27/1	10.8	8.3	7.8	9.6	15.1
3/2	10.5	8.1	7.8	7.7	15.1
10/2	9.9	7.7	7.9	6.1	15.1
17/2	9.3	7.4	8.1	5.4	15.0
24/2	9.0	7.2	8.4	5.4	15.2
3/3	8.7	6.9	8.5	6.0	15.0
10/3	8.4	6.6	8.7	6.5	15.0
17/3	8.1	6.5	9.0	7.4	15.2
24/3	7.9	6.5	9.3	8.4	15.6
31/3	7.9	6.1	9.7	9.2	16.0
7/4	7.8	5.9	9.8	9.7	16.0
14/4	7.9	5.9	9.8	10.5	16.1
21/4	8.1	6.1	10.2	10.9	16.3
28/4	8.3	6.3	10.5	11.4	16.1

Coal industry – manshifts

Mr. Emery was asked to publish a table showing the average weekly number of hours worked by underground workers in the mining industry for each of the past 12 months. 'I regret the information is not available,' he replied. 'The following information relates to the average weekly manshifts (including overtime shifts) of NCB underground workers. Within the NCB a manshift is the normal period of attendance at the colliery by one man in one day, ie, in most cases, now 7¼ hours plus one winding time underground.'

1973	
January	3.88
February	4.21
March	4.21
April	3.89
May	4.17
June	3.81
July	3.46
August	3.14
September	3.87
October	4.17*
November	4.03*
December	3.15*

* Excludes South Wales and Scotland.

Continuing, Mr. Emery said: 'The above averages are based on men on books. They therefore reflect the effect of absences, holidays, etc..'

Turnhouse Airport

Mr. Heseltine was asked if he was prepared to recommend, as a result of his study of the Parliamentary Commissioner's Report on the new runway and terminal buildings at Edinburgh (Turnhouse) Airport, that the airport be classified as a designated airport to allow grants for sound proofing to adjacent properties. 'The major realignment of the runway at Edinburgh Airport to which the Report refers is not likely to come into use before the spring of 1976,' Mr. Heseltine replied. 'I will, in the meantime, give careful consideration with all concerned to the question of designation of the airport under Section 29 of the Civil Aviation Act 1971 and of any noise insulation arrangements.'

Small businesses

A request was made for a further statement on the development of a Small Business Development Bureau and of its role in assisting small firms in Scotland. Mr. Grant said: 'A Small Firms Information Centre has been established in Glasgow and is one of a network of 10 such centres which have been set up throughout Britain. The centre provides a source of reference and help to small firms in Scotland, introducing them to appropriate sources of advice on problems related to their businesses. It also provides a further channel by which small firms can make their views known to Government and identifies and reports the difficulties such firms are experiencing.'

Nuclear fuel production

The following statement was made by Mr. Jenkin in reply to a question:

'During debates on the Atomic Energy Authority Bill in 1970 and 1971, the Government undertook to inform Parliament of its plans for private participation in British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. and the Radiochemical Centre Ltd.; a policy to which both the last Government was, and the present one is, committed.

'In 1971, under the Atomic Energy Authority Act 1971, the Authority's nuclear fuel production business was transferred to British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. and the radiosotope business to the Radiochemical Centre Ltd.

'The shares in both companies are at present held entirely by the Atomic Energy Authority; and the Act obliges the Authority and the Government, separately or jointly, to continue to hold at least 51 per cent of the voting shares. The Radiochemical Centre develops and produces radiochemicals, radio-pharmaceuticals and radiation sources for use in medicine, industry and research. The business has grown steadily and in 1972/73 the company's sales were £7.6 million of which nearly 70 per cent was in exports. In the light of a report by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd., the Government and the Atomic Energy Authority have considered two main alternative ways of making shares in the Radiochemical Centre available to interested purchasers. These are: on the one hand, an invitation to other companies to bid for shares; and, on the other hand, a public flotation. The Government has decided, with the full consent and co-operation of the Atomic Energy Authority and the company, that the right course is a public flotation subject to the statutory requirement for the Authority and the Government to continue to retain a majority of the shares. The Centre is a well established commercial business; and in the light of Rothschild's advice, the Government and the Atomic Energy Authority are confident that shares in the company will command a price fully reflecting the public investment in the business and its promising future. In order to get the Centre off to the best possible start as a public company, the Government and the Authority have decided that, before a public flotation takes place, the company should complete the introduction of an improved system of product costing and obtain one or two years' accounts based on it. Subject to this, the precise timing of a flotation will depend upon general business and market conditions.

'The business of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. consists mainly in the provision of fuel and the associated services of the fuel cycle for nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom, but the company has also built up a significant export business in nuclear fuel services. In 1972-73, total sales amounted to £65 million, of which exports represented over £6 million. The company is the UK's participant in the uranium enrichment gas centrifuge collaboration with the Netherlands and West Germany and has entered into other arrangements with European countries covering transport of irradiated fuel and its reprocessing.

'In the light of a report by J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Company Ltd., the Government and the Atomic Energy Authority have considered the timing and method of sale of shares in BNFL. They are confident that the company faces a future of further expansion; but this has yet to show itself through a resumption of domestic ordering of nuclear power stations. The Government and the Authority, with the full agreement of the company, have therefore decided that a

more suitable time to sell shares would be when the ordering of new nuclear power stations is fully under way, and the prospects for expansion of the whole range of BNFL's business are more clearly established. A review of the position will be made in 1975 and at the same time further consideration will be given to the method of sale.'

Research and development

A question was put on the level of expenditure on research and development by private and governmental agencies respectively and as a percentage of GNP, in the UK, the USA, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Japan and Sweden for each year since 1960. Mr. Heseltine gave the information available for the UK in the table below, together with the information, comparable as far as possible, for other countries, available from the international surveys conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

				As a percentage of gross national product at market prices (1)		
	Total	Government	Other	Total	Government	Other
			UNITED KINGDOM (2)			
		£ million				
1961/62	657.7	378.2 (3)	279.5	2.4	1.4	1.0
1964/65	771.4	421.2	350.2	2.3	1.3	1.0
1966/67	926.3	479.4	446.9	2.4	1.3	1.2
1967/68	962.1	493.1	469.0	2.4	1.2	1.2
1968/69	1,016.6	514.1	502.5	2.3	1.2	1.2
1969/70	1,081.9	558.8	523.1	2.3	1.2	1.1
			USA			
		Million dollars				
1963/64	21,035	13,358	7,677	3.5	2.2	1.3
1966	22,285	13,970 (4)	8,310 (4)	2.9	1.8	1.1
1969	26,595	15,307 (5)	11,236 (5)	2.9	1.6 (5)	1.2 (5)
			FRANCE			
		Million francs				
1963	6,414	4,065	2,349	1.6	1.0	0.6
1967	12,376	8,030 (4)	4,340 (4)	2.1	1.4	0.8
1969	13,860	6,907 (6)	6,952 (6)	1.9	0.9 (6)	0.9 (6)
			GERMANY			
		Million dm.				
1964	5,745	2,354	3,391	1.4	0.6	0.8
1967	8,337	3,443	4,894	1.7	0.7	1.0
1969	10,433	4,080	6,352	1.7	0.7	1.0
			ITALY			
		Million lire				
1963	181,729	60,135	121,594	0.6	0.2	0.4
1967	279,453	98,247	181,206	0.6	0.2	0.4
1969	433,938	177,740 (6)	256,198 (6)	0.8	0.3 (6)	0.5 (6)
			NETHERLANDS			
		Million guilders				
1964	1,196	478	718	1.9	0.8	1.2
1967	1,860	725	1,135	2.2	0.9	1.4
1969	2,119	798	1,321	2.0	0.8	1.3
			JAPAN			
		Million yen				
1963	321,128	89,123	232,006	1.3	0.4	0.9
1967	606,293	183,022	423,271	1.4	0.4	1.0
1969	933,228	128,108 (6)	805,120 (6)	1.5	0.2 (6)	1.3 (6)
			SWEDEN			
		Million kroner				
1964	1,332	646	686	1.3	0.6	0.7
1967	1,739	732	1,007	1.3	0.6	0.8
1969	1,904	765	1,139	1.2	0.5	0.7

(1) Based on the latest available estimates of the gross national product at market prices; figures may therefore differ from those included in the OECD publications on research and development.
(2) As published in Research and Development Expenditure; Central Statistical Office, 1973.
(3) Expenditure financed by government, as reported by the sector carrying out the work.
(4) Estimated and therefore rounded.
(5) Excluding certain expenditure included in the total.
(6) Certain government funds for the finance of higher education are included in 'Other.'

Friday, 25 January

Glass bottles

A Member inquired if steps would be taken to suspend the use of non-returnable bottles. Mr. Chataway replied that the recent report of the Glass Industry Working Party into the use and disposal of glass containers, including non-returnable bottles, was being studied. He added: 'The glass industry has embarked on a programme aimed at significantly increasing the use of waste glass in the manufacture of glass containers and at finding new uses for it in other fields.'

North Sea oil rigs

Mr. Onslow, when asked if he was satisfied with the conditions on board stand-by vessels for the oil rigs in the North Sea, answered 'I believe that conditions on most such vessels are satisfactory, but I am aware that there are exceptions and I am considering what measures are necessary.'

Barter deals

Sir Geoffrey Howe was asked how barter deals with foreign countries are accounted for in the balance of payments figures. He answered that bartered goods were recorded in visible trade at the appropriate value at the time the import or export took place.

Liquid gas storage

Mr. Emery was asked whether liquid natural gas storage tanks were intended in South Wales for any reasons other than emergencies. 'Yes,' he replied. 'In addition to providing security of supply, the LNG storage is required for meeting peak demands for gas, thereby enabling more gas to be supplied in South Wales, during the remainder of the year.' Answering further questions, he said that the British Gas Corporation estimated that they required one storage tank of 20,000 tons liquid capacity now to be followed by a second of similar size later on. The two tanks would store gas representing about eight days supply in South Wales at peak demand.

Mr. Emery said that 24 sites were examined in detail, taking into account their location, ground conditions, economics and their proximity to mining operations, to other property and the existing gas pipeline. Hirwaun was selected as by far the most suitable, and was the only one at which it was proposed to establish liquid natural gas storage in South Wales.

The size of tanks built in Great Britain to store liquid natural gas, said Mr. Emery in reply to a further question, ranged from 4,000 tons liquid capacity to 20,000 tons liquid capacity.

Health risks in mining

A Member asked if the Minister of Energy would: '. . . commission a study of the health risks that affect the mining community, both workers and their families, arising from their environment, in the light of the evidence in the journal *The Lancet*, a copy of which is in his possession, with a view to amending the compensation laws to provide for their particular problem.'

Mr. Emery replied that the major health hazard in the mining industry, pneumoconiosis, had been studied by the NCB and the Medical Research Council for many years and the work was continuing. More generally, the Secretary of State for Employment had proposed a study of the future of the industry, including consideration of the Government's contribution to compensation for the health hazards in coal mining, as soon as normal work was resumed.

Thermal efficiency of power stations

A Member suggested that a general direction should be issued to the CEGB that, wherever practicable, waste heat should not be dispersed in cooling towers or rivers and estuaries but used as district heating for domestic and industrial purposes. Mr. Emery said that the CEGB already had a relevant statutory duty under Section 50 of the Electricity Act 1947 as amended by the Electricity Act 1957.

Answering further questions on the same subject, Mr. Emery said that officials from the Department of Energy were inviting the Board to discuss the matter with them.

Petrol coupons

Answering a question about the cost of printing and distributing petrol coupons, Mr. Emery said that a firm figure was not yet available but the cost was likely to be in the range of £2½ million.

Commodity prices

Sir Geoffrey Howe was asked to provide statistics showing the movement in the prices of imported wheat, copper, zinc, tin and wool at October 1964, June 1970, and at the latest convenient date in index form, taking October 1964 as 100. Sir Geoffrey gave the following information:

	October 1964	June 1970	December 1973
Wheat	100	109.9	331.2 (provisional)
Copper	100	125.2	197.9
Zinc	100	118.2	277.1
Tin	100	94.6	179.0
Wool	100	79.1	259.5 (provisional)

Exhibitions and Fairs

NY Exposition of Chemical Industries shows excellent long-term prospects

From Joseph G. Palsa, Commercial Officer, British Trade Development Office, New York: The 'Chemshow' is the biggest chemical equipment show in the USA: officially, it is the biennial Exposition of Chemical Industries. This time, the show was held at the Coliseum, New York, 26-30 November.

For years, each Chemshow has won the distinction of being the 'biggest ever' in terms of numbers of exhibitors and visitors. This, the 34th in the series, has shown a slight drop in attendance because the US is currently a seller's market and because of the energy crisis. However, attendance reached nearly 20,000 and interest was high among engineers attending.

This time there was the first official joint venture from Britain—sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Five British companies provided an impressive display of equipment and technology.

Ultrasonics Ltd., exhibiting for the first time in the US, was particularly pleased with the show. In addition to promoting its new sonic homogeniser, it is confident of signing an agency agreement with an American distributor in the near future.

Anthony Quartararo and Walter Biercevicz of Chesebrough Ponds, Trumbull, Conn., talk with M. J. Ashley of Ultrasonics Ltd. at New York's Chemical Industries Exposition.

Shaw Moisture Meters Ltd. introduced a new recording hygrometer and mini electric hygrometer: it was extremely pleased with the response and confidently expects that a useful market will develop in the US.

Edwards & Jones Ltd. exhibited one of its new fully-mechanised filter presses. Reaction to the new press, one of the easiest to operate available on the market, was very good. The company sees a large potential market in the US with the ever-increasing importance of pollution control equipment in all chemical-based industries.

Costain Construction Ltd. promoted its resources for design and construction of plants for chemical and other industries. It was pleased to have the opportunity to meet and discuss opportunities with several companies. James A. Jobling & Co. Ltd. exhibited various glass components for pre-fabricated chemical plants. Jobling met at first hand a number of existing customers and many potential customers to discuss the application of products.

Overall, the British exhibitors were impressed with the quality and quantity of inquiries during the show. It was also felt that there was substantial buying interest.

The US market for all types of chemical equipment and services covered by Chemshow is over $185 billion a year. Industries covered include food processing, pharmaceuticals, plant, organic and inorganic chemicals, cosmetics, etc.

Despite uncertainties caused by the energy situation, most exhibitors were confident that the long-term future of these industries was excellent. We believe this show can play an important part in marketing British equipment to these industries. We very much hope for a larger joint venture in 1975.

UK picks up sales at handling event

From Clive Almond, Second Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Paris: Despite the current world economic climate the French economy is still set for record investment expenditure. This optimistic forecast is based on a survey conducted in November by the French National Institute of Statistics which calculated that investment expenditure was expected to grow by as much as 14 per cent in value in 1974 and 8 per cent in volume.

It is perhaps not very surprising, then, that at the French Mechanical Handling Exhibition, Manutention, 30 November-7 December, in the Paris CNIT exhibition hall at La Défense the demand for British products should have exceeded all expectations.

Over 740 exhibitors from 22 countries participated on 480 stands with a stand space area of 41,000 sq. m. A total of 57 British firms took part, the third largest group from any one country.

Fifteen British companies participated in the first-ever joint venture at this exhibition and the group was jointly sponsored by the Mechanical Handling Engineers Association and the British Overseas Trade Board. They showed everything from castors to lifting gear, conveyor systems and the largest types of fork-lift trucks. In the centre of the hall was an area which permitted cranes to extend their jibs to a height of 150 ft.

The fair was attended by over 40,000 trade buyers from a total of 54 countries and the number of foreign visitors increased by 35 per cent.

All the British companies were agreeably surprised by the lively interest and the demand for their products and this was even more unexpected considering the oil crisis and all its possible repercussions.

Among the companies which did particularly well were Stewart Gill with its cleantrack conveyor; Coventry Climax; Ekco Instruments with its computer unit boom angle sensor; and Harris Walton with a complete range of lifting gear and ships' tackle – it was also this company's very first exhibition. Another British firm doing well on the French market, and which has just set up its own subsidiary company in the outskirts of Paris, is Lansing Bagnall; this company, although relatively new to the market, has already gained 5 per cent of all sales of fork-lift trucks in France.

There is little doubt that with such a highly successful first joint venture there will be an even greater interest by British companies to exhibit at the next Manutention exhibition in two years' time.

Overseas promotions: BOTB aids exporters

During the first two months of 1974 the British Overseas Trade Board is assisting over 200 British companies taking part in consumer goods promotions in Europe.

Sponsored by the BOTB, 53 British companies were exhibiting at the Cannes International Record and Music Publishing Market (MIDEM), 19-25 January. Exhibits mainly comprised records and music.

At the Cologne International Furniture Fair, 22-27 January, UK firms exhibited a wide range of furnishing products. This is one of eight events concerned with furniture, furnishings, household equipment and hardware due to take place in Europe during 1974 with BOTB participation.

The most famous toy fair in the world, the Nuremberg International Toy Fair, will take place 2-8 February.

The International Sweets and Biscuits Fair will take place in Cologne, 5-9 February, with 21 firms making up the BOTB-sponsored British group.

At the Knitting Industries Exhibition, 9-12 February, in Paris, there will be BOTB-sponsored participation by British firms showing a wide variety of knitwear.

Heimtex: big demand for British goods

From R. Weatherburn, British Consulate-General, Frankfurt: Although the number of trade visitors attending the fourth in the series of Frankfurt international fairs for floor coverings and household textiles, Heimtex, which took place 9-13 January, was a fraction less than the 54,000 of the previous year, hardly any of the British exhibitors – a few of them exhibiting for the first time – were anything but delighted with the results they achieved. The fair got off to a slowish start but, nevertheless, by the end of the third day a good number of British exhibitors reported that they had already taken orders in excess of those which they had booked during the whole of last year's event. Indeed, for some of them, with order books already long, the strong demand for their products at this fair proved even slightly embarrassing.

Since its inception four years ago Heimtex, like other Frankfurt fairs, has been one with a strong international character. This was again very clearly demonstrated by the fact that out of a total of 775 exhibitors almost half (370) were from outside Germany. As has become traditional, the British contingent was by far the largest of the foreign groups, no fewer than 102 firms participating. The Belgians and Italians were the next largest groups with 40 firms each.

As on previous occasions, the majority of the participating British firms – 86 out of a total of 102 – were grouped in three joint ventures sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, in collaboration with the British Carpet Export Promotion Council, the National Wool Textile Export Corporation and the Irish Linen Guild.

The range of household textiles and carpets on display was as varied and colourful as ever. The pattern of orders taken differed little from that of the previous year, except that German buyers, with thoughts of possible recession in mind, generally appeared to be less willing to commit themselves, at any rate in the longer term. Buyers from France, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and Spain were much in evidence and there was a particularly noticeable increase in purchases (especially in the carpet sector) by visitors from the Arab countries.

All in all, and despite economic uncertainties, which obviously had their effect, Heimtex 1974 was once again a highly successful event. An opinion poll taken by the fair authorities disclosed that the overall proportion of exhibitors declaring themselves well satisfied with results was 80 per cent, only 5 per cent less than at last year's fair.

Support for firms at Japan ventures

The British Overseas Trade Board is sponsoring four British trade promotions, involving over 40 British firms, in Japan during February and March, including two exhibitions at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo.

At the Metrology and Tooling Exhibition, 18–23 February, 11 British companies will exhibit a selection of measuring equipment.

This will be followed, at BOTB's British Export Marketing Centre, by the British Furniture Exhibition, 25–30 March. Eleven firms are participating.

In Osaka, at the International Exhibition of Textile Machinery, 20–27 March, 13 British firms will take part in the BOTB-sponsored group.

At the Fourth Anti-Pollution Show, 26–31 March, in Tokyo, British exhibits in a joint venture display will include a recycling process for car-wash systems, small air and gas sampling pumps and equipment, liquid waste treatment plant, anti-pollution flare tips, pneumatic refuse collection systems, industrial vacuum cleaners, air fuel ratio control and carpet steam cleaning machines.

Constructive contacts cemented at building show in Paris

From Clive Almond, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Paris: The largest group of British companies ever to exhibit at the Paris Building Exhibition took part in the Salon International de la Construction (BATIMAT), 15-25 November. This show, the largest exhibition of building materials, consisted of 2,200 manufacturers on 1,375 stands and covered 75,000 sq. m of stand space in five large halls on the Porte de Versailles exhibition complex. Nearly 1,000 of the stands were occupied by foreign companies. The total number of visitors to the Salon was the highest ever at 289,000 and of these 10,300 were from overseas.

Thirty-eight companies participated in the British joint venture which covered all sections of the industry. The various groups were sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and three trade associations: British Building Materials Export Group, British Carpets Export Promotion Council and British Ceramic Plant Manufacturers Association.

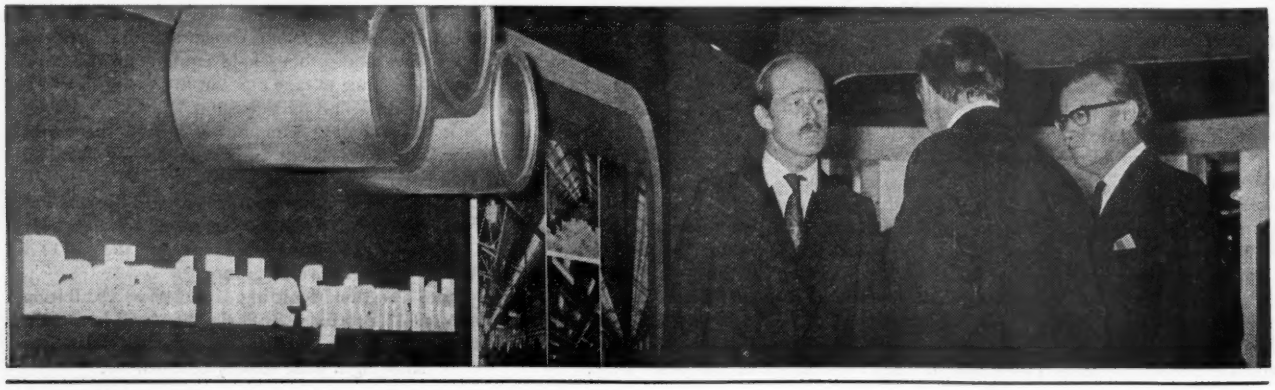
British companies exhibited everything for the building industry from bathroom suites to garage doors. Among the new equipment and materials being shown were several items in the British section. Carron reported a tremendous amount of interest in its plastic bathroom ware, and Code Design in its range of loft windows. In addition, Henderson, with industrial doors, and Radiant Tube Systems were also pleased with their participation.

It was the first time a contingent of British ceramic plant machinery manufacturers had shown in this exhibition. Eleven companies manned the Association's joint stand and, although not everyone was completely satisfied with what was for them very much a trial effort, most said they had been able to make enough useful contacts to justify participation.

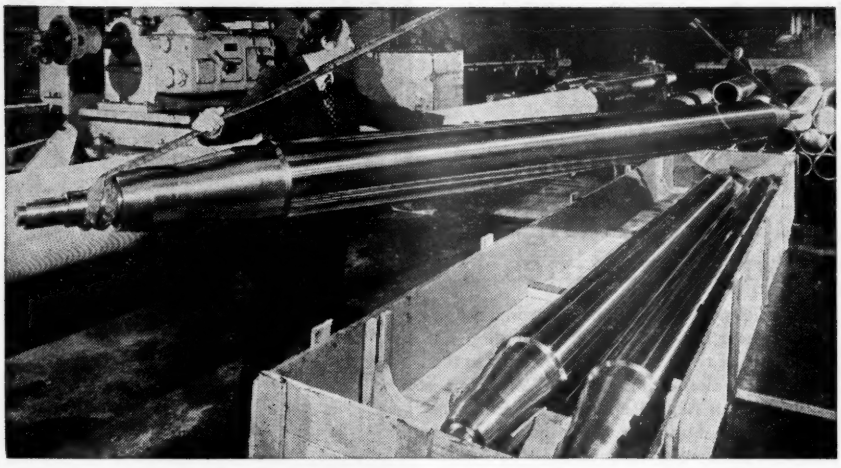
Another first time venture was the exhibit by the British carpet firms. They, too, made some useful contacts but some participants expressed a certain surprise about the small number of professionals from the building industry who actually visited their stands.

On the other hand, the British building materials firms all commented on the lively interest shown in their products. Those new to the market remarked on the excellent market in France for their products and all were optimistic about their export prospects.

Among distinguished personalities who visited the British exhibitors were Lord Limerick, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, and Mr. R. Arculus, Minister Economic, British Embassy, Paris (*seen below, left and right, respectively, with an exhibitor*).



Export Business



Lehr rollers being loaded for shipment to Italy. These are part of an export order received by APV-Paramount Ltd. of Crawley, Sussex, for rollers required in connection with the installation of a float glass plant at San Salvo, near Vasto, as a result of an agreement between Societa Italiana Vetro and Pilkington's of St. Helens. The rollers, a speciality product of APV-Paramount for the glass industry, are constructed from centrifugally cast tube and statically cast roller ends.

Scots computer system exported to Italian railway

One of Scotland's newest exports, a large-scale Honeywell 6000 computer from the plant in Newhouse, Lanarkshire, is on its way to Rome. The £870,000 equipment is being delivered to Italian State Railways where it will be used as part of an overall information system under development around several large computers.

Production of the big 6000 system, which has involved an initial investment at Newhouse of £3 million, got under way early last year leading to first shipments in the autumn. The system for Italian State Railways is the third to go for export, others having been shipped in November and December to the Caisse Centrale des Mutuelles Agricoles in Paris and the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas in Geneva – a further £1,320,000 worth and the start of what Bob Gilchrist, director of Honeywell's computer operations group calls a 'multi-million-pound export trail'.

A 'database' containing information on the over 200,000 people employed by the railways throughout Italy will be built up on the new computer system and be used for career planning, health care services, pensions and so on, as well as for routine payroll.

A dozen terminals will be installed from the outset to connect various offices to the computer centre as the start of a network involving hundreds of terminals to allow for direct input and inquiry from local offices.

Italian State Railways already has two large-scale Honeywell computers in operation: a Model 615 installed in 1971 for inventory management and a Model 6050 installed last summer for freight traffic control.

The new Honeywell computer left Newhouse in two articulated vehicles. With 'air ride' suspension, padding inside and vertical and horizontal lashing points, the vehicles allow the computer equipment to be packaged with only a polythene skin. All Series 6000 computers from Newhouse will be shipped by road in this fashion. The two earlier deliveries to Paris and Geneva proved the new packing technique which saves both in packing costs and time.

Container transfer orders from Guyana and Holland

Three orders, worth more than £45,000, have been received by Walter Lawrence Engineering Ltd., a member of the Lawrence Group, for container transfer vehicles. The Lawrence 20–20's have been ordered by John Fernandes Ltd. of Georgetown, Guyana; Ruys and Co. BV of Rotterdam and R. S. Stokvis of Rotterdam.

The Guyana 20–20 is expected to be delivered by 20 February, after which it will be used to speed up vessel turn around time in the Georgetown docks.

Also due for delivery in February is the 20–20 for Ruys and Co. BV. This machine will be used for container handling at the Europort in Rotterdam.

The third container transfer vehicle will also be delivered shortly and is to be used for inland container handling.

The 20–20 lifts containers on and off vehicles and simplifies their handling in warehouses and factories where similar transfer work has, up until now, been handled by mobile cranes, straddle carriers and fork lift trucks, states Lawrence. And, unlike most container transfer equipment, it is capable of collecting a full container from a warehouse and transporting it through a standard 10 ft. doorway.

Marine diesel engine for South America

The Peruvian shipbuilding company Servicio Industrial de la Marina (SIMA) of Callao, has placed an order with Harland and Wolff Ltd. for a marine diesel engine.

The engine, which develops 12,500 bhp, MCR, will be installed in a 25,000 tonne tanker ordered from SIMA by the Peruvian Navy and is scheduled for delivery at the end of June.

Total value of the order, including accessories and associated equipment, is in the region of £600,000.

The order, obtained in the face of strong international competition, was negotiated in association with Parsons and Crosland of London and Crosland Tecnica, SA of Peru.

China buys new colour television unit

Pye TVT Ltd., the Cambridge-based television equipment manufacturer, has received an order from China for a £250,000 colour outside broadcast vehicle. The contract follows Chinese trade mission visits to Cambridge and participation by Pye companies in the British Industrial Technology exhibition in Peking.

The OB van, similar to those used by both the BBC and British commercial television companies, will be equipped with four LDK 5 colour cameras, as well as mixing and control equipment. As with other such units, it can function completely independently as a roving television studio control room.

Similar OB vans are currently in production for Korea, Zanzibar and Australia. This order follows an earlier order from the Chinese for a colour camera chain which was delivered recently.

Commenting on the order, Richard King, managing director of Pye TVT, said: 'I am particularly pleased with this order from China as it is the largest order secured by a European broadcast equipment manufacturer and I hope this paves the way for substantial business in the future. Our negotiations started in August last year and since then our engineers have been in almost constant contact with the Chinese broadcasters with whom we now have a very good working relationship.'

Japan Airlines orders flight simulator for jumbo jet training programme

Redifon Flight Simulation Ltd., a member company of the Rediffusion organisation, has announced that Japan Airlines (JAL) has ordered a Boeing 747-246B Flight Simulator, valued at £1.4 million. This follows the first JAL order for a similar Boeing 747 simulator placed in August last year. The new order, Redifon reports, brings the total value of its exports to the Far East in 1973 to £9 million.

Both Japan's major civil airlines – JAL and All Nippon Airways – train their pilots on Redifon's ground-based 'flying machines'. All Nippon bought a Lockheed 1011 TriStar simulator in 1973. Other Redifon flight simulator sales to the Far East have been to the CAAC Airline of the People's Republic of China, which is buying Boeing 707 and Trident 2E simulators, and Singapore Airlines which has purchased a Boeing 707 simulator.

The new simulator for JAL incorporates Redifon's most advanced motion system which duplicates the pitch, roll, heave, yaw, sway and surge of a plane actually in flight, plus a closed circuit colour television visual system by which the pilot actually sees the topography of the country he is 'flying' over, and all types of weather conditions, through the simulator cockpit window.

Redifon's latest computer – the R2000A – controls the operation: the system can reproduce, and train the pilot to handle, hundreds of flight emergencies and hazards – from bad weather to engine failure.

Redifon Flight Simulation reports that it has supplied more than 200 flight simulators to major world airlines and air forces over the past 25 years. Most of the best known aircraft produced during this period have been simulated by Redifon, from single seat fighter aircraft to the latest wide bodied jets. Redifon has also supplied flight trainers, visual flight systems and simulators for ships machinery control rooms, submarines and nuclear reactors.

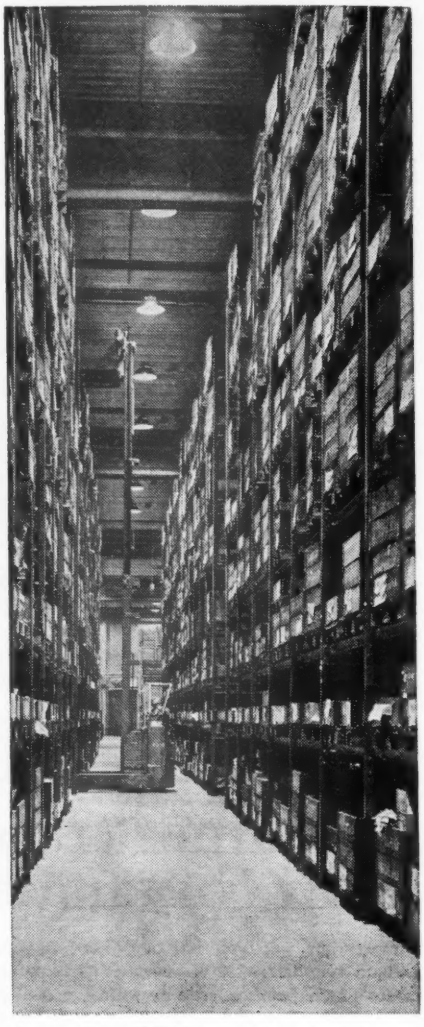
Libyan telephones ringing 'changes with more lines

Plessey Telecommunications has won a major contract worth more than £1.3 million for the supply of two telephone exchanges to the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation of the Libyan Arab Republic. The contract represents a significant penetration into a market previously dominated by West German and Swedish suppliers, Plessey states.

Plessey will install a 5,000-line exchange, with an ultimate capacity of 20,000 lines, at Misurata, a coastal town 125 miles from Tripoli, and a 3,000-line exchange, with an ultimate capacity of 15,000 lines, at the provincial capital of Sebha.

The Plessey 5005 Crossbar system, playing a major part in the British Post Office modernisation programme, is particularly suited to Libya's modern and expanding telephone network due to its capacity to incorporate fast inter-register signalling.

This facilitates the introduction of national and international subscriber trunk dialling without the problems experienced by other administrations in grafting STD on to older systems.



Lansing Bagnall FRER 5 reach trucks with triple-lift masts stack box pallets to a height of 27 ft. at the spare parts division of Volvo at Torslanda near Gothenburg. A stock of 60,000 parts is held in the warehouse where aisles are only 8 ft. 3 in. wide. Efficient and reliable handling is of prime importance for the dispatch of spare parts from this complex to customers throughout the world and Lansing Bagnall's series of narrow aisle trucks save time and space.

Overseas contracts from metalworks

Davy Ashmore International Ltd. of Stockton-on-Tees, a Davy International company, has received two export contracts with a total value of over half-a-million pounds for steelmaking and non-ferrous metals refining equipment.

The first is from Stora Kopparbergs, Bergslags AB, Borlange, Sweden to engineer the conversion of its existing basic 30 tonne Kaldo converter to an OBM steelmaking unit.

In addition to the engineering and design work Davy Ashmore International has also received the contract to supply the main equipment required for the conversion, including the complete lime storage and dispensing unit, the fume collection and cooling hood and the process instrumentation.

The conversion will enable Stora Kopparbergs to take advantage of the higher yield, reduced operating costs and improved refractory life associated with the OBM process compared with the older Kaldo process.

The second order comes from P.T. International Nickel Indonesia, for a top blown rotary converter.

Visit by Poles leads to export business

Member of the Edward Le Bas group, BSP International Foundations Ltd., has announced that following a recent visit to its Claydon, Ipswich, factory by a representative of BUMAR, the Polish foreign trade corporation, and the managing director and chief engineer of the Navigation and River Shipyard at Wroclaw, a contract worth in excess of £30,000 has been placed for medium and heavy duty double acting air hammers, diesel hammers, extractors, driving caps, anvil blocks and a stock of spare parts.

Other orders placed include a BSP 1250 Terradrill for delivery to the Ministry of Communications/Roads of Warsaw which together with spares and drilling tools are worth approximately £30,000.

Negotiations are now proceeding for further orders for pile driving equipment. These initial orders and the continuing discussions are the direct result of three years of negotiations with government departments in Poland.

From Czechoslovakia, orders in excess of £33,000 have been received from Hydrostav of Bratislava for a T35 Trencha with two 600 and 800 mm hydraulic grabs.

Texeira Duarte Ltd., Lisbon, has placed the first order ever received from Portugal for a 1250 Terradrill.

European Communities

EEC joins UK in financing studies of regional problems

The EEC Commission has agreed to a request from the United Kingdom Government to join them, with each bearing half the cost, in financing studies of regional problems in the United Kingdom.

One of the studies will be concerned with examining the non-manufacturing activities in the manufacturing sector in the UK with a view to increasing understanding of the distribution and location of these activities and so informing the development of regional policy in the UK. The study will be carried out by the University of East Anglia and the total cost is estimated at £67,000.

The second study will attempt to identify the opportunity for raising the level of employment in the West Belfast area of Northern Ireland. The aim is to find viable industrial ventures which might hold out reasonable prospects of increased employment opportunities in the area. This study which will cost £36,000 is being carried out for the Commission and the Northern Ireland Ministry of Commerce by Inducon-AIC Management Consultants.

Arising from the problems posed by the prospect of redundancies in the UK steel industry the Commission is sharing the cost of two study projects.

One of these involves a study of the important industrial site at Cambuslang, East Glasgow. In the light of prospective redundancies in the steel industry in this area, the study, which will be carried out for the Scottish Office and the Commission by Crouch Hott and Co., Edinburgh, will examine how best to develop the Cambuslang area in order to maximise its potential for industrial use. The total cost of this study is estimated at £90,000.

The British Steel Corporation is also carrying out a series of three studies aimed at alleviating the problems which may arise as a result of anticipated reductions in jobs in the steel industry in the coming years. The total cost of these studies is £42,000.

These studies are being carried out pursuant to the normal studies programmes of the Commission and are not related to the proposed Regional Development Fund.

How to set up business in Europe: London conference in February

A conference designed to show industrialists how to set up business in Europe is to be held in London on 28 February. It is being run by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with the organisers of the National Industrial and Commercial Development Exhibition.

Mr. Paul Romus, principal administrator in the EEC Directorate General for Regional Policy, is to outline industry's future under current EEC policy. The conference – titled Industrial Relocation in Europe – will also cover taxation, finance and property.

The accompanying exhibition (27 February to 1 March) is to be opened by Mr. Christopher Chataway, Minister for Industrial Development. Both events will take place at the Cunard International Hotel, Hammersmith, London W6.

EEC Information Unit

The DTI's EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about the effects of entry into the EEC and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources. New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.

The Unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 01-222 7877 ext. 3591 for publications; extensions 5377, 5479, 5480 or 3579 for questions on EEC matters.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the **'Official Journal of the European Communities'** as indicated against each item. The **'Official Journal'** is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as exports are concerned, is available from Department of Trade and Industry, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. The texts of the following Regulations, Decision and Directive which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 75/74 adding Class III to the common quality standards for brussels sprouts. (*Official Journal* L9, 11 January 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 76/74 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 1018/70 applying additional classes to certain vegetables. (*Official Journal* L9, 11 January 1974)

COMPETITION POLICY. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* C111, 18 December 1973, contains a notice about an application to the Commission of the European Communities for negative clearance or a declaration of inapplicability under Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty of the general co-operation agreement between Steenkolen-Handelsvereeniging NV of the Netherlands ('SHV') and Chevron-Oil Europe Inc. of the USA ('Chevron') and a number of specific agreements relating to the supplying of ships with fuel and lubricants (paraffin and fuel oil, industrial fuel, asphalt and petrol products) through a jointly owned subsidiary, 'Calpam NV' and its subsidiaries.

The Commission is proposing to take a favourable decision on these agreements, but before doing so requests all interested third parties to submit their observations within three months from 18 December 1973 under reference No IV/C/26.872 to

New EC Legislation
continued

the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Competition, Directorate C, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

Further information. Department of Trade and Industry, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1P 0ET (tel. 01-222 7877 ext. 5092).

HARMONISATION OF LEGISLATION. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L347, 17 December 1973, contains the texts of the following:

Decision 73/404/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to detergents.

Decision 73/405/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants.

Further information. Department of Trade and Industry, Standard Weights and Measures Division, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, (tel. 01-834 4422 ext. 330).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 77/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 1108/68 as regards the age of skimmed-milk milk powder bought in by intervention agencies. (*Official Journal* L9, 11 January 1974)

Corrigendum to Regulation (EEC) 1354/73 published in *Official Journal* L141, 28 May 1973, amending Annex II to Regulation (EEC) 823/68 as regards the conditions for importation of certain cheeses. (*Official Journal* L8, 10 January 1973)

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 3566/73 determining the amounts of the variable components and compensatory amounts, and the additional duties applicable, during the first quarter of 1974 on importation of goods covered by Regulation (EEC) 1059/69. (*Official Journal* L362, 30 December 1973)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 57/74 amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) 320/73 as regards the list of representative markets for adult bovine animals. (*Official Journal* L8, 10 January 1974)

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 58/74 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 1076/72 laying down detailed rules for applying export levies on sugar. (*Official Journal* L8, 10 January 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 59/74 supplementing Regulations (EEC) 2637/70 and (EEC) 2645/70 in particular by the insertion of an additional condition necessary for the issue of an export licence for sugar produced in excess of the maximum quota. (*Official Journal* L8, 10 January 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 100/74 fixing for the 1973/74 marketing year the maximum amount of the contribution to storage costs which sugar manufacturers may require of beet and cane producers when sugar is carried forward. (*Official Journal* L13, 16 January 1974)

Pigs and pigmeat. Corrigendum to Regulation (EEC) 231/73, published in *Official Journal* L28, 1 February 1973, amending Regulations 134/67/EEC and 137/67/EEC on sluice-gate prices and the system of 'pilot products and derived products' for pigmeat with particular reference to the nomenclature of goods. (*Official Journal* L8, 10 January 1974)

Poultry and poultrymeat. Corrigendum to Regulation (EEC) 988/73 published in *Official Journal* L99, 13 April 1973, amending Regulation (EEC) 146/67/EEC as regards the provisions for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate prices for certain slaughtered ducks. (*Official Journal* L8, 10 January 1974)

Live plants and products of the flower-growing industry. Decision 74/4/EEC amending Decision 73/153/EEC authorising the Member States to approve for marketing reproductive material of certain forestry species subjected to reduced requirements. (*Official Journal* L12, 15 January 1973)

Cereal seed. Decision 74/5/EEC exempting Denmark from applying to certain species the Directive 66/402/EEC concerning the marketing of cereal seed. (*Official Journal* L12, 15 January 1974)

Animal feedingstuffs. Directive 74/7/EEC amending the Annexes of Directive 70/524/EEC on additives in feedingstuffs. (*Official Journal* L14, 17 January 1974)

UNCTAD GENERALISED PREFERENCES SYSTEM: *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973, contained a notice about a number of Regulations setting up tariff quotas and opening tariff preferences for certain products originating in developing countries for the period 1 January to 31 December 1973. The text of the following notice reimposing the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain of these products has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

CCT no.	Description of goods	Country of origin	Full rate of duty payable from	Tariff quota or preference set up by Reg. No.
Notice 44.15	Plywood, blockboard, laminboard, battenboard and similar laminated wood products (including veneered panels and sheets); inlaid wood and wood marquetry.	Malaysia	27 December 1973	2761/72

(*Official Journal* C115, 28 December 1973)

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN: CORRIGENDUM. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L8, 10 January 1974, contains the text of a corrigendum to Regulation (EEC) 3103/73 published in the *Official Journal* L315, 16 November 1973, on certificates of origin and application for them.

COMMERCIAL POLICY: EXPORT QUOTAS. CORRIGENDUM. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L13, 16 January 1974, contains the text of a corrigendum to Regulation (EEC) 3390/73, published in *Official Journal* L345, 15 December 1973, increasing the Community quantitative export quotas for certain types of copper ash and residues and for certain types of copper waste and scrap.

Further information. Department of Trade and Industry Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB (tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 4248).

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Trade Information

UK - Iranian trade agreement: communique

Following an audience with His Imperial Majesty, the Shahanshah of Iran in St. Moritz on 25 January 1974, agreement was reached on a broad front between His Excellency, Mr. Hushang Ansary, Minister of Economy of Iran, and Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Shahanshah for the development of a more extensive and closer economic relationship between Iran and the United Kingdom. Under one agreement during 1974 and the early part of 1975 British companies will export to Iran a range of products, including petrochemicals, synthetic fibres, synthetic rubber, paper newsprint and steel of a total value of approximately £110 million and, for her part, Iran will export to the UK 5 million tons of oil during the same period.

The two Ministers reviewed the progress being made on the £250 million of industrial joint-venture projects in Iran, which were negotiated at the Iran/UK Investment Conference held in Persepolis in November 1973. They agreed to examine further projects which could be developed.

The two Ministers also agreed to examine at an early date the potentialities for Iranian investment in the UK and agreed that there were many spheres in which substantial investments from Iran into UK industry and technology could be of mutual benefit to both countries. In this way, the two governments hope that there will be an increasing inter-relationship between the two economies in terms of the fast developing trade between the two countries. The two Ministers agreed that they would constantly review the requirements of each nation for the years ahead with the objective that those requirements should provide opportunities for an even greater increase in the two-way flow of trade. Both Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the results already achieved subsequent to the Joint-Ministerial Commission Meeting held in London in June 1973, the Iran/UK Conference held in Persepolis in November 1973, the Ministerial meeting in London in December 1973 and the fruitful outcome of this St. Moritz meeting.

Hungary's development priorities: scope for exports and co-operation

Following the visit to Hungary in October 1973 by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr. Peter Walker, it was reported in *Trade and Industry* (8 November) that the next seven years could prove to be a period of substantial economic co-operation between Hungary and Britain.

The Hungarian authorities have provided the Department of Trade and Industry with a list of some areas of the Hungarian economy which are likely to be given priority in the next Five Year Development Plan (1976–80). In these sectors there may therefore be export possibilities and scope for co-operation with British firms.

The information provided is in outline form but even so is too long to reproduce in full in *Trade and Industry*. It covers, however, possible developments in the following sectors:

Chemical fertiliser production
Expansion of petro-chemical programme
Pharmaceutical industry
Aluminium industry
Expansion of steel production
Modernisation of tube manufacture
Improvement of cable manufacture
Modernisation of the manufacture of the grinding wheel
Enlargement of bicycle production
Co-operation (licensing) in the field of electronic component
Medical instrument manufacture
Road vehicle manufacture
Co-operation in environment protection
Processing of the Hungarian poplar tree
Leather production
Utilisation of Hungarian thermal waters
Development of the meat and dairy industries
Corn production and processing
Mechanisation of vegetable, fruit and wine growing
Agricultural irrigation programme.

The list is being published over the DTI Export Intelligence Service and copies have also been sent to the East European Trade Council, the Confederation of British Industry and the Birmingham and London Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Additional copies are available from CRE 4(3), DTI, Room 321, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 5258). Firms requiring further information on individual items in the list are advised to write to the Hungarian Trade Department, 46 Eaton Place, London SW1.

Australia: new assistance arrangements for shipbuilding industry

New arrangements for assistance given to the shipbuilding industry have been announced by the Australian Minister of Secondary Industry. The main changes are as follows:

Controls on the importation of vessels are to be relaxed to allow imports where Australian yards have been given reasonable opportunity to tender and where their price (including the subsidy) is not competitive with the overseas quotation.

The phasing down of the subsidy from 45 per cent by annual reductions to reach 25 per cent by the end of 1980. These interim subsidies will apply only to eligible vessels within the existing production capacity of the industry and any arrangements to produce larger capacity vessels (ie those in access of 90,000 deadweight tons) would attract a subsidy at the long-term rate of 25 per cent. This rate will also apply to off-shore oil drilling rigs.

The extension of the subsidy to vessels of 150 tons gross or more (instead of 200 tons gross), vessels intended for use in international trade by Australian flag operators and the

modification of vessels costing over 500,000 dollars for which the subsidy will be 25 per cent.

Copies of the Minister's speech and details of the new arrangements are available. Ref. CRE 27255/G2

CRE ext. 5318

Exports of copper, lead and aluminium scrap to third countries

Regulation (EEC) 1627/73 established quotas for exports in 1973 of copper, lead and aluminium scrap from the European Communities to third countries.

Publication of the Regulation establishing the comparable quotas for export in 1974 is expected shortly and in order that the tonnages allocated to the United Kingdom may be distributed among exporters at the earliest possible date after publication, applications are now invited and will be considered for exports in the five months ending 30 June 1974 of the following materials:

1 Copper ashes and residues (tariff heading ex 26.03) in the form of copper scale.
2 Copper and copper alloy scrap (tariff heading ex 74.01) in the forms of:
   a enamelled copper hair wire
   b contaminated nickel silver in the form of:
      i cutlery or tableware contaminated by plating or solder; or
      ii electrical contacts, springs and valves contaminated by solder.
3 Aluminium scrap (tariff heading ex 76.01).
4 Lead scrap (tariff heading ex 78.01).

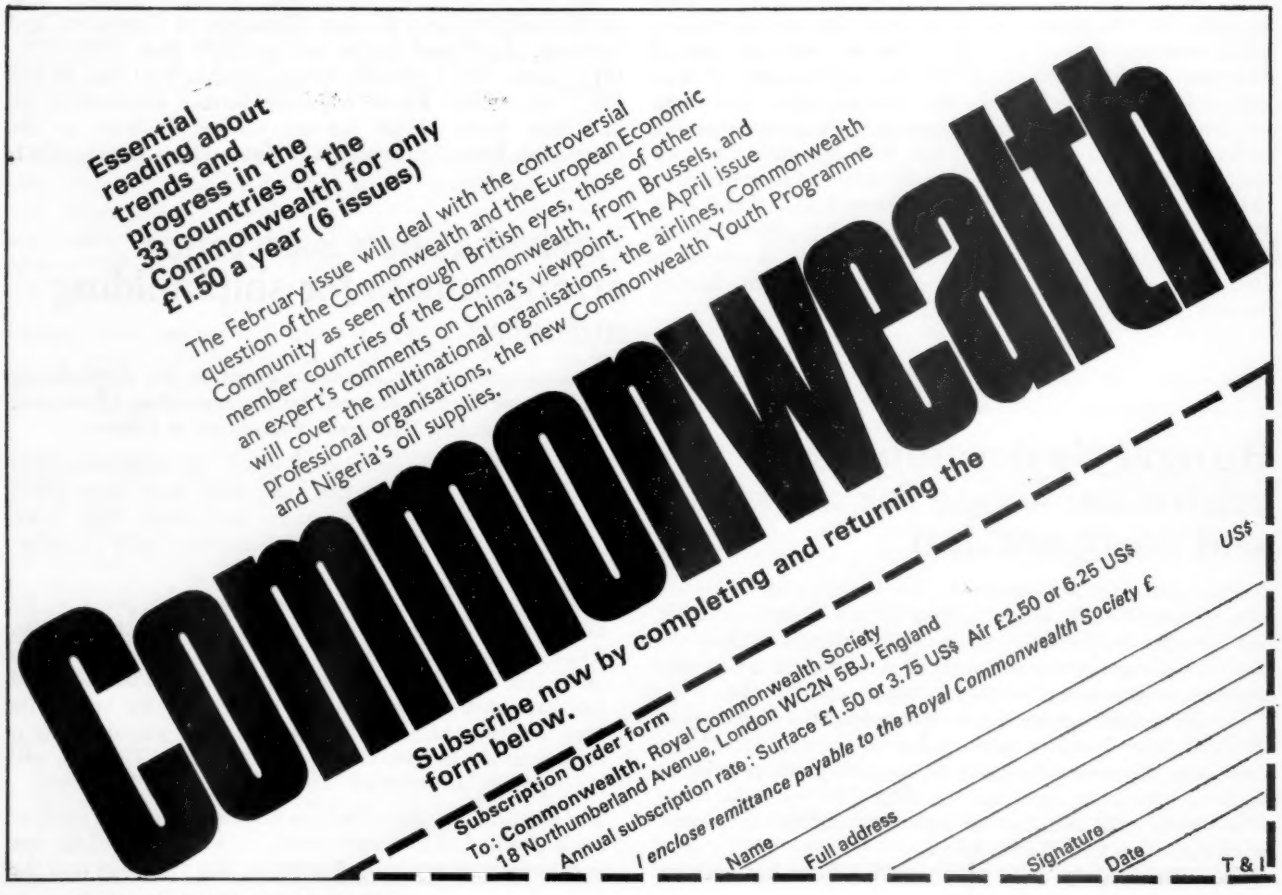
Applications should include details of type, value and destination and should be received in Export Licensing Branch, Department of Trade and Industry, 16/20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB by 9 February 1974.

Imports of bananas from the Dollar Area – supplementary quota

To offset expected shortfalls in supplies of fresh bananas to the United Kingdom from other sources, a further supplementary quota of 20,000 tons has been established for imports from the Dollar Area.

In order to ensure continuity of imports, the Department's Import Licensing Branch will allocate the supplementary quota among existing licence holders, having regard to the use they have made of their existing allocations under the current quotas for 1973/74. Import licences will be issued to importers against their allocations only for those amounts for which they can produce evidence of a firm contract with the overseas suppliers. Licences issued under these arrangements will not be valid after 30 September 1974.

The Dollar Area, as defined in the Open General Import Licence, means Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica,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Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Republic of Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Phillipines, the United States of America, and Venezuela.

Tariff quota for iron and steel coils for re-rolling

An Order (the Import Duties (Quota Relief) Order 1974, SI No. 96 of 1974) has been made opening from 25 January up to and including 31 March 1974 a duty-free tariff quota of 50,000 tonnes of iron and steel coils for re-rolling (Tariff heading 73.08) imported from any source outside the European Economic Community.

Where goods from any third country sources qualify for duty-free treatment under other arrangements such imports will not count against the quota. The Order provides that as long as the quota is not exceeded such goods (provided they satisfy the requisite origin criteria) may also be imported from other Member States duty-free. (Duties on these goods from other Member States are also separately suspended until 30 June 1974.)

Qualifying imports will be debited against the quota in the order in which they are entered with Customs for home use. ('First come, first served.')

(Customs Notice 771 and amendments, available from any Custom House or office, give information on the administration of Tariff Quotas and inquiries should be made to any office of HM Customs and Excise. Any general inquiries about this quota should be made to Tariff Division 2 of the Department of Trade and Industry, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.)

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade and Industry is considering an application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the material listed below on the grounds that this material is not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for this material, or who are interested in its future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade and Industry, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 14 February.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.31	2-Chloro-1-phthalimidoethyl *OO*-diethyl phosphorodithioate	O,O-Diethyl S-(2 chloro-1 phthalimidoethyl) phosphoro dithioate	December 31 1974	14767

Visits by British overseas commercial representatives

The following commercial diplomatic officers are expected to be in this country shortly.

IRISH REPUBLIC
J. A. Graham, Second Secretary (Commercial) in Dublin since November 1971. Available: April.

KOREA
M. R. W. Cumming, Commercial Attache, in Seoul since January 1972. Available: April.

OMAN
B. V. White, First Secretary (Commercial) and Consul in Muscat since February 1972. Available: June.

SINGAPORE
N. King, Second Secretary (Commercial) in Singapore since February 1973. Available: June.

SUDAN
J. G. Douglas, First Secretary (Commercial) in Khartoum since September 1971. Available: May.

VIETNAM
J. G. S. Quinn, Consul and Second Secretary (Commercial) in Saigon since February 1973. Available: April.

British firms and organisations who wish to meet these officers to discuss specific export problems are asked to write for appointment to Tours Section, Department of Trade and Industry, Room G60, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

Pakistan: visas during Islamic summit

A summit conference of the heads of Islamic states, which was earlier expected to take place in December 1973, will now be held in Lahore from 18 to 23 February. In addition to the consequent accommodation problems in the area, intending visitors should note that the Government of Pakistan has announced that all foreign nationals will require visas for entry into Pakistan during the period 20 January to 28 February. Details can be obtained from the Embassy of Pakistan, 35 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9JN (tel. 01-235 2044). **CRE ext. 5278**

Trinidad and Tobago: passports required

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago's notice No. 205 of 1973 states that visitors will now require a passport and where necessary a visa. Concessions to UK citizens have been withdrawn. **CRE ext. 3572**

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Tariff and Trade Notices

France

Imports of potatoes – minimum price procedure

The French *Journal Officiel*, 6 January, announced that potatoes (tariff no. 07.01 A III b) imported from member countries of the EEC and Greece may be admitted under the minimum price procedure for the first six months of 1974.

Tariff no.	Product	Reference product	Minimum price per 100 kg (in France)	Period of application
Price recorded at market of Arras (in sacks of 50 kg)				
07.01 A III b	Potatoes other than early or seed potatoes and not imported for the manufacture of starch	Bintje minimum riddle 35 mm	0.27	January
			0.28	February
			0.29	March
			0.30	April
			0.30	May
			0.30	June

EDB ext. 423/408/482

Belgium

Meat and poultry: regulations

The *Moniteur Belge*, 8 January 1974, published a decree dated 18 December 1973, setting out the techniques to be used in determining the presence of residues of antibiotics and disinfecting substances in meat and poultry. Copies of the decree (in French) are available.

EDB ext. 288/466/467

Federal Republic of Germany

Import licensing

Cotton goods originating from Hong Kong

The Federal German authorities have invited applications from importers in Germany for import licences for material, outer and underwear, night shirts, pyjamas and handkerchiefs, all made of cotton (BN numbers 5509 02, 28 to 42, 71, 75, 90 and 95; 6101 17, 27, 37, 47, 57, 67 and 98; 6102 17, 23, ex 37, ex 47, ex 57, ex 67, ex 77 and ex 98; 6103 52, 67 and 77; 6104 ex 07 and ex 77; 6105 ex 52, ex 56; and 6202 85). These goods will have originated in Hong Kong and will be exported to Germany by firms in countries of Länderliste A and B. Applications should be submitted to the Bundesamt für gewerbliche Wirtschaft, Zuständigkeitsbereich 09, 6 Frankfurt a/Main 1, Postfach 2411 until 31 July 1974, or exhaustion of the quota, whichever is the earlier.

The German authorities point out that in paragraph 7 of the application for the import licence, in the column headed 'Quantity shipped in quota units', the quantity in kilogrammes as shown in the export licence issued by the Hong Kong Department of Commerce and Industry should be quoted. In paragraph 13, the net weight in kg according to the invoices or the suppliers' packing lists should be stated.

The following documents should be attached:

a the import contract;

b a copy of the export licence issued by the Hong Kong Department of Commerce and Industry as valid for the despatch of the goods between 1 January 1974 and 30 June 1974 and certifying that the particular delivery has been charged against the quota for the Federal Republic of Germany; and

c invoices and packing lists showing the net weight quoted in paragraph 13.

Import licences will be valid for six months, expiring on 30 September 1974 at the latest. Extensions can be considered only if it can be proved that the goods were dispatched before 1 July 1974.

Rags and waste

The Federal German authorities have invited applications from importers in Germany for import licences for rejects or new textile waste which fall under chapters 51, 53, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61 and 62 of the Federal German customs tariff. These may be unpacked or in bundles, sacks or in similar packaging and are for the manufacture of

a cleaning, abrasive or polishing discs; cleaning, polishing and other rags; and protective gloves and mittens;

b textiles; and

c paper pulp.

Applications should be submitted to the Bundesamt für gewerbliche Wirtschaft, Zuständigkeitsbereich 09, 6 Frankfurt a/M 1, Postfach 2411, until 31 December 1974. Import licences will normally be valid for eight months, unless requested for a longer period.

EDB ext. 466/467/482

Spain

Temporary import duty reductions

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 19 January 1974 announced reductions by 5 per cent on import duties until 18 April 1974. Goods on which the current import duty is below 5 per cent are excluded. The temporary reduction on all other goods is to be calculated on the level of import duties currently being applied, even if this represents an already temporary reduction and will be rounded to one decimal point. This measure is described as part of a policy to stabilise the domestic price level.

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Capital goods – additions and extensions.

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 13 December 1973 announced the following additions and extensions to the list of capital goods which may be admitted at the concessional rate of 5 per cent import duty.

Tariff no.	Description	Valid until
ADDITIONS		
84.09	Self-propelled tamping machines with vibrating roller and four or more independent tamping wheels, weighing 16 metric tons or more; tamping machines having nine or more independent pneumatic wheels measuring 11.00 x20 or larger, or seven or more independent pneumatic wheels measuring 13.00 x24 or larger	December 12, 1975
84.14-F	Special automatic ovens for simultaneous pressure-forming and tempering of clutch diaphragms in a controlled atmosphere	December 12, 1975
84.16-A	Calendering machines for rolling plastic materials, with four or more rollers the axes of which are not all in the same plane, with bodies measuring not less than 1,600 mm in width and not less than 600 mm in diameter	December 12, 1975
84.17-G	Automatic dryers for continuous-strip impregnated paper floating on an air-cushion	December 12, 1975
84.33-A-4	Automatic cutting and selecting machines for obtaining various paper sizes, with sections for unreeling without spindles, longitudinal cutting, synchronised transverse cutting and the selection and stacking of sheets, for working widths of more than 1,200 mm	December 12, 1975

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available from the Department of Trade and Industry. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, DTI, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: 01-222 7877); and Export Data Branch (EDB), DTI, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (CRE or EDB) and the appropriate telephone extension number. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Tariff no.	Description	Valid until
84.33-A-4	Automatic cutting and reeling machines having independent sections for reeling without spindles able to control the firmness and diameter of the reels, and having a pneumatic cutting arm, for working widths of more than 2,000 mm	December 12, 1975
84.40-C	Special machines for cutting the pile or loop of carpets having a width of 5 m or more	December 12, 1975
84.12-A	Machinery for the manufacture of footwear	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-4	Automatic broaching machine for external surfaces, for broaching the friction face or head of half-bearings	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-5	Special milling machines weighing more than 1,500 kg for rounding, bevelling or removing crests from the teeth of crown-wheels or pinions	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-6	Finishing machines for non-plane surfaces, weighing more than 2,500 kg (lapping, honing, burnishing and rolling machines)	December 12, 1975
84.45-B	Electro-erosion machinery fitted with a continuous-wire electrode and with numerical control of the workpiece	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-6	Machinery for grinding steel billet and other roughly-shaped pieces, with pneumatic control of grinding-wheel pressure, of a weight exceeding 5,000 kg, without loader or aspirator	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-6	Machinery specially designed for the simultaneous grinding of two flat, opposed parallel face, with two horizontal front-milling heads and automatic loading	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-8-a	Hypoid bevel gear cutting machines	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-9	Hydraulic presses for cold stamping, with bottom drive and upper die-holder pivoted to give variable inclination during the pressing operation	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-9	High-speed presses for punching metal strip by means of a progressive die, the product of the pressure expressed in metric tons and the number of strokes per minute to be not less than 40,000	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-9	Automatic presses with bottom drive by means of a bell-crank and moving frame, for the production of metal parts by stamping or indirect extrusion, having a power of more than 1,000 metric tons	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-9	Presses specifically designed for the production of crown caps* [* Clearance to be provisional until the destination of the presses can be ascertained]	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-9	Double-crank eccentric presses, with pneumatic expulsion, for extruding and forging engine valves	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-9	Automatic presses with six or more stations for the production of metal parts by cutting, folding and/or stamping from cut sheets or strip, with individual transfer of parts	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-10	Machines for the initial forming of wheel rims by the compressing of sectors, and machines for circularising rims, having a weight of more than 5,000 kg	December 12, 1975
84.45-C-16	Numerically-controlled machining centres	December 12, 1975
84.47-C-2	Automatic machines for satin-finishing plastic laminates by means of rotating brushes and abrasives in suspension, whether or not with a hot air drying station	December 12, 1975
84.56-E	Automatic rotating-table presses with bottom drive for the production of asphalt tiles using ore in hot powder form, whether or not equipped with drive reduction gearing	December 12, 1975
84.59-K	Continuous kneading and mixing machines for plastics, having oscillating endless screws with a longitudinal aperture, whether or not with an extruder directly connected to the outlet	December 12, 1975
84.59-K	Automatic machines for applying photosensitive gelatine to a continuous strip of paper or film, consisting of unreeling, take-up and tangential impregnation stations, whether or not with a cooling channel and a suction arch	December 12, 1975
84.59-K	Anodic needle extractor machines for aluminium electrolysis baths	December 12, 1975
84.59-K	Aluminium oxide breaking and feeding machines for aluminium electrolysis baths	December 12, 1975
85.11-B-2	Machines for continuous welding of the longitudinal seam of metal containers by resistance, using rollers with an interposed copper wire electrode	December 12, 1975
87.02-A-2	Pneumatic-tyred tracked vehicles for haulage or transportation on snow, whether or not equipped for use as snow-ploughs	December 12, 1975
87.07-A-2	Platform trucks with hydrostatic drive and four or more independently-steered sets of wheels	December 12, 1975
87.07-A-2	Special straddle carriers for handling containers	December 12, 1975
87.03-C	Earth-drilling equipment mounted on special vehicles having two or more differentials and three or more hydraulic support and stabilisation devices, the total weight in running order being more than 20,000 kg	December 12, 1975
EXTENSIONS		
87.03-C	Rotary snow-ploughs with hydrostatic transmission or with a separate engine driving the clearing and ejection turbines and/or blades, the unit being fitted permanently on a specially designed chassis	December 12, 1975
87.07-A-2	Self-propelled fork-lift trucks with a lifting capacity in excess of 20,000 kg	December 12, 1975
88.02-A-1	Aircraft for use in agriculture	December 12, 1975

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 4 January 1974, anonunced the following additions and extension to the list of capital goods which may be admitted at the concessional rate of 5 per cent import duty.

Tariff no.	Description	Valid until
ADDITIONS		
84.23-A	Tracked scoop-type excavators and mechanical shovels, fitted with motors of an operational power (DIN 6270) exceeding 100 hp; wheeled mechanical shovels fitted with motors of a mechanical power (DIN 6270) exceeding 200 hp, excavators, other than scoop type (cup, chain, etc. type)	January 3, 1976
84.23-B	Levellers, self-propelled skimmers, drawn skimmers with motor driven continuous-loading attachment, scarifiers and pile-drivers	January 3, 1976
84.44-A.3 84.44-B.2 84.45-C.10 84.20 85.01 85.19 90.28 and others	Equipment for modernising wire-rod rolling mills consisting of mechanical drive systems for the roughing and intermediate stands (variable speed controllers, drive shafts and Morgoil bearings), input and outlet guides, cutting shears, non-twisting finishing blocks with their motors and reduction gearing, reeling heads and electrical system for regulation and control of the complete mill	January 3, 1976
EXTENSION		
87.02-B.2.d	Special vehicles for the transport of earth, rocks and mineral materials, other than those falling within subheading 87.02-B.2 (a), (b) and (c), with three or more driving axles	January 15, 1975

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Petrochemical products – duty concessions

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 17 January 1974 announced concessional

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rates of import duty until 31 March 1974 on the following:

Tariff no.	Description	Duty
29.01.A.1	Butadiene	Nil
29.01.B.5	Styrene	Nil
29.08.D	Ethylene glycol	4.5%
29.15.D.1	Dimethyl terephthalate	Nil
29.22.A.4	Hexamethylenediamine monomer adipate	Nil
29.27.B	Acrylonitrile (monomer)	Nil
29.35.G	Caprolactams	Nil
39.01.E.1	Hexamethylene-diamine adipta polimers	4.5%
39.01.E.2	Other polyamides	4.5%
39.01.G	Ethylene-glycol polyterephthalate	4.5%
39.02.A.1 } 39.02.A.2 }	Polyethylene	Nil
39.02.G.1	Acrylonitrile copolymers	Nil
39.02.H.1	Polyvinyl-butyral and polyvinyl-formal	Nil

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Portugal

Shipyard supplies – duty exemption

Portuguese *Diario do Governo*, First Series, No. 260, published Decree Law 593/73 of 7 November 1973 authorising exemption from import duty for materials and equipment intended solely for use in naval construction and repair yards. For goods intended for the construction or fitting of shipyards, duty exemption may be granted on detailed application to the Ministry of Finance. For machinery, equipment or fittings employed in the construction, modification or repair of foreign vessels, a re-export permit issued by the customs authorities is required. Details are contained in the law, an unofficial translation of which is available. **EDB ext. 460/461**

Tariff amendments

Portuguese *Diario do Governo*, First Series, No. 302 of 31 December 1973, published Decree Law 714/73 increasing the maximum and minimum tariff rates on the following BN headings:

73.18	73.35	73.38	74.03	74.04
76.02	76.04	76.06	82.02	82.09
84.01	84.22	84.24	84.25	84.27
84.37	84.40	84.45	84.47	84.56
84.59	84.61			

Goods qualifying for preferential treatment under the EEC/Portuguese Free Trade Agreement and products of EFTA origin are not affected.

EDB ext. 460/461

Switzerland

Vehicle regulations: exhaust control

The Swiss authorities have published amendments to the Ordinance on the Construction and Fitting of Road Vehicles of 29 August 1969 modifying the exhaust control regulations. A copy of these amendments (in French) will be sent on request. The original Ordinance as amended may be inspected at Tariff Section, Export Data Branch.

EDB ext. 460/461

Israel

Purchase tax changes

The Israeli authorities have announced purchase tax amendments as follows:

1 Basic purchase tax rates, where expressed as a percentage only, are subject to an increase of 5 per cent (eg basis + 5 per cent = 25 per cent). This increase does not apply to instant coffee.

2 Purchase tax rates which are specific or a combination of percentage *ad valorem* and specific have been amended.

3 In addition to 1 and 2 above, numerous basic purchase tax rates have been amended.

Details of the changes are available on request and inquirers should specify the items in which they are interested.

EDB ext. 420/475

Tariff amendments

The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the customs tariff:

Item no.	Rate of duty
09.01.1519	IL 3.23 per kg
09.01.1593	IL 1.66 per kg
09.02.9990	IL 1.60 per kg + 25% *ad val*
18.01.1010	IL 2.28 per kg
18.03.1010	IL 2.37 per kg
18.04.9910	IL 2.56 per kg
24.02.1000	IL 0.10 each + 20% *ad val*
24.02.2000	IL 150.00 per kg + 30% *ad val*
24.02.3000	IL 85.00 per kg + 25% *ad val*
37.07.1011	IL 38.00 per kg
37.07.1012	IL 60.00 per kg
37.07.1019	IL 80.00 per kg
37.07.1091	IL 38.00 per kg
37.07.1092	IL 60.00 per kg
37.07.1099	IL 92.00 per kg
37.07.2010	IL 92.00 per kg
44.19	IL 0.25 per kg gross + 47.5% *ad val*
44.20	IL 0.25 per kg gross + 47.5% *ad val*
44.25.9900	IL 0.25 per kg + 47.5% *ad val* i.i.c.
44.28.9900	IL 0.25 per kg + 47.5% *ad val* i.i.c.
64.01.1000	55% *ad val* but not less than IL 4.00 per pair + 35% *ad val*
64.01.2000	55% *ad val* but not less than IL 4.70 per pair
64.01.9900	55% *ad val* but not less than IL 4.00 per pair + 35% *ad val*
64.02.9900	55% *ad val* but not less than IL 4.00 per pair + 35% *ad val*
64.03	55% *ad val* but not less than IL 4.00 per pair + 35% *ad val*
64.04	55% *ad val* but not less than IL 4.00 per pair + 35% *ad val*
68.16.1500	85% *ad val*
69.13	85% *ad val*
70.13	85% *ad val*
94.01	IL 0.25 per kg gross + 55% *ad val*
94.03	IL 0.25 per kg gross + 55% *ad val*

Item no.	Description	Rate of duty
37.02.5000	After the words 'not less than 6 mm', insert 'and not exceeding 8 mm'	
58.02	The rate of duty is amended to –	IL.40 per m^2 + 15% *ad val*
71.01	The rate of duty is amended to –	10% *ad val*
85.03	After paragraph 1091, insert	
1092	'For a nominal tension of up to 4½ volts, if released before 1.1.74'	20% *ad val* but not less than IL 0.12 per 1½ volt
40.14.1010 } 42.04.9910 } 68.16.3000 } 70.21.1000 } 85.26.1000 } 96.02.1091 }	In the text of these items, the words 'If the rate of duty does not exceed 20% *ad val*', are superseded by 'If the rate of duty does not exceed 25% *ad val.*'	
	The rate of duty on the following items is amended as follows:	
09.01.1519		IL 3.03 per kg
09.01.1593		IL 1.45 per kg
09.02.9990		IL 1.40 per kg + 25% *ad val*
18.01.1010		IL 2.10 per kg
18.03.1010		IL 2.33 per kg
18.04.9910		IL 2.10 per kg
07.04.4010	In these items the words 'If released	
07.04.9910	before 1.12.73' are superseded by	
11.05.1000	'If released before 1.4.74.'	
12.01.2510		
48.01.3011		
48.16.3000		
73.15.5092	In this item, the words 'If released before 1.10.73' are superseded by 'If released before 1.4.74.'	

EDB ext. 420/475

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Item no.	Description
87.02.1000	In this section, the heading is superseded by: Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, including passenger cars, the body of which is built in one continuous unit with windows and doors in all its length, whether the interior of the body is or is not partitioned, not specified in section 2000
	The following shall be inserted after paragraph 1069:
1070	Motor vehicles answering the following description: a Having a body with a continuous and uniform roof in all its length; b The maximum height of the vehicle exceeds 1.90 m; c Having in the rear part of the vehicle an opening of not less than 0.6 sq. m not closed by either a window or a door; d In the body there is a metal partition with a permanent window, separating completely the double cabin for driver and passengers from the rear part of the body 47.5% *ad val*

EDB ext. 420/475

Marking of photographic film and articles of apparel

The Israeli authorities have issued Orders on marking photographic film and articles of apparel. Details are available.

EDB ext. 420/475

Laminated plates, beer – purchase tax amendments

The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the Purchase Tax Order:

Description	Rate of tax
Laminated plates made of phenolic or aminoplastic resin impregnated layers	
the price of which exceeds IL 10.00 per square metre but does not exceed IL 20.00, other than those specified in the following sub-item	IL.6.00 per sq. m
the price of which exceeds IL 10.00 per square metre but does not exceed IL 20.00, sold before 1.1.74	IL 5.40 per sq. m (new sub-item)
Other	30%
Beer, other than in barrels	39.5% (previously 45%)

EDB ext. 420/475

Cement – excise duty and maximum price control

The Israeli authorities have issued Orders on the excise duty on cement and the maximum price for grey Portland cement. Details are available. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Rice – maximum price control

An Israeli Order on maximum prices for rice has been issued. Details are available. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Fuel – excise duty

The Israeli authorities have issued an order on the exercise duty on benzine as follows:

Description	Excise duty
Of an octane number not exceeding 83	IL 0.47 per litre
Of an octane number exceeding 83 but not exceeding 85 if the benzine is used for vehicles of the Israeli Defence Forces	IL 0.47 per litre
Other	IL 0.54.5 per litre

EDB ext. 420/475

Import of automotive spare parts

The Israeli Ministry of Transport is encouraging the import of automotive spare parts, and Israeli banks are granting special credits for them. **CRE ext. 3508**

Registered trade marks

The lists of Tariff, Customs and Import Regulations changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Iraq

Development projects law

The *Baghdad Observer*, 9 January 1974, published details of a new law on the implementation of major development projects. The text includes an article giving major development projects exemption from taxes and customs duties, work permits, import restrictions, social security and labour laws. Details are available. **CRE ext. 3454**

Iran

Foreign exchange regulations relaxed

On 15 January 1974 the Central Bank of Iran introduced measures to relax its foreign exchange regulations. Details are available. **CRE ext. 3454**

Nigeria

Industrial standards

The Nigerian Standards Organisation announced the establishment of 10 industrial standards. The products affected are:

Plastic bowls made from polythylene	(NIS.22: UDC: 621.624: 678.742.2)
Flexible PVC flooring	(NIS.23: UDC: 69.025.35)
Paraffin wax candles	(NIS.24: UDC: 665.14: 665.41)
Lead acid starter batteries (electrical characteristics)	(NIS.25: UDC: 621.316.71: 661.73/85)
Assessment of fastness of coloured textiles to artificial light (carbon or xenon arc) (lamp test)	(NIS.26: UDC: 677.01: 535.68: 628.92)
Assessment of fastness to coloured textiles to daylight	(NIS.27: UDC: 677.01: 535.68: 628.93)
Determination of recovery of fabric from creasing	(NIS.28: UDC: 677.064: 620.177)
Galvanised steel buckets for general use	(NIS.29: UDC: 621.642.1: 699.15)
Structural use of concrete in buildings	(NCP.1 – Part I (Building Code): UDC: 691.32-699.8/887)
Loading	(NCP.1 – Part III (Building Code): UDC: 091.32-699.8/887)

Copies of the standards can be purchased from the Director, Nigerian Standards Organisation, Federal Ministry of Industries, 11 Kofo Abayomi Road, Victoria Island, Lagos; or they will be available from the Standards Library, British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London W1. **CRE ext. 3338**

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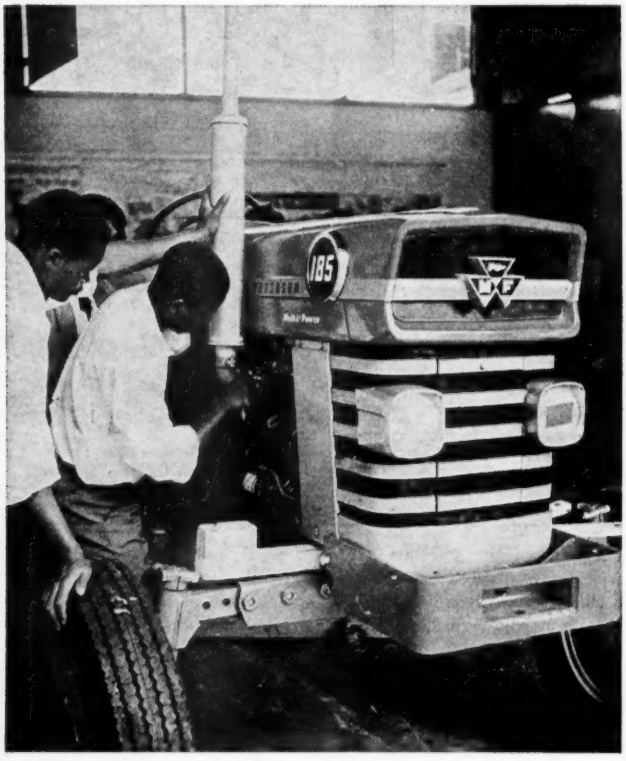
THE EXPORT FREIGHT FORWARDERS

A gleaming, brown-and-gold Rolls-Royce Phantom VI leaves Gatwick Airport for Nigeria. ASA Aeroservices Ltd., London air brokers, arranged the shipment to Herwar Ltd., of Apapa, the carrier being Tradewinds Airways. The Rolls-Royce is air-conditioned and specially fitted for the tropics. The value? A mere £21,500.



Students at the Farmers' Training Centre at Eldoret, Kenya, inspect a tractor donated by Massey-Ferguson for the farm machinery courses. Britain has provided £260,000 towards the construction costs of the centre – part of £126 million of aid in grants and loans to assist the Kenyan development programme during the 10-year period since Kenya's independence in 1963.

Portuguese Colonies (Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea and Cape Verde Islands)

Tariff amendments

Portuguese *Diario do Governo*, Series I, No. 266, of 14 November 1973, published decree law 606/73 setting out the following amendments to the import tariffs of the Portuguese colonies:

The following note is added to the Mozambique customs tariff on BN 87.02.08 (motor vehicles for the transport of persons):

Passenger vehicles, rural type for all conditions, shall pay a duty of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

Duty rates on goods falling under BN 89.04 (ships, boats and other vessels for breaking up), imported into Portuguese Guinea and Cape Verde Islands have been amended to comply with the rates effective in Portugal. The special legislation of 9 April 1966 which was in force in Portuguese Guinea on imports of goods of this heading has been revoked accordingly. **EDB ext. 460/461**

South Africa

Customs tariff applications

Customs Tariff Application List No. 616, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 25 January 1974 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on milling cutters, reamers and tool bits.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to Commercial Relations and Exports Division 4. **CRE ext. 5274**

Tariff changes

The following amendments were announced in the South African *Government Gazette*, 11 January 1974:

R 20	BN 84.10: Specific provision is made for water pumps for motor vehicle engines and the duty has been amended.
R 21	BN 97.02: The duty on dolls made wholly or chiefly of rubber or of artificial plastic material of a fob price per hundred exceeding 2,085c is amended from 25% plus 1,000c per 100 to 60% or 25% plus 1,000c per 100.
INDUSTRIAL REBATES	
R 22	BN 84.10: Water pumps are excluded from the rebate provisions for the manufacture of internal combustion piston engines as well as for motor cars and for goods vehicles with a carrying capacity not exceeding 1,270 kg.

EDB ext. 471/472/473/462

Hong Kong

Clean air regulations

The Hong Kong *Government Gazette* has published a clean air ordinance – the Clean Air (Restriction and Measurement of Smoke Emission) Regulations 1973 – which came into effect on 1 January 1974. The regulations empower the authorities to take samples of and measure the smoke density emitted from industrial plant. The authorities may also take samples of liquid fuel to determine its temperature and viscosity. A copy of these regulations, together with a table of the permitted dust emission in relation to the liquid fuel consumption, can be obtained from Commercial Relations and Exports Division 2, DTI. **CRE ext. 5642**

Japan

Saccharin – relaxation of restrictions

Following the report of a consultative body, the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare has decided to relax the restrictions placed on the use of saccharin on 28 April 1973. No further information is available at present. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Australia

New scheme for developing countries

From 1 January 1974, Australia is operating a new scheme for developing countries. In addition to the 'declared developing countries', certain other countries, territories or provinces will be treated as 'developing countries' for the purposes of the Australian Customs Tariff and their goods allowed in to Australia at concessional rates of duty. Some of these goods are subject to quota being allocated on imports. Details of the list of countries, quotas, tariff items and rates of duty may be obtained from Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section, Export Data Branch.

EDB ext. 468/469/401

Printing industry products – tariff changes

Details are given below of changes made in the Australian customs tariff by customs tariff proposals which came into effect on 7 January 1974, and are consequent upon the Tariff Board inquiry into products of the printing industry.

ALTERATIONS TO PART II OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE CUSTOMS TARIFF 1966-73

Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty: General	Rates of duty: Preferential
1 Omit sub-item 48.18.1, substitute the following sub-items:			
48.18.1	Diaries; billheads ,memorandum and other printed, ruled or engraved forms; registers, account books, betting books, copy books, copying books, drawing books, exercise books, guard books, letter books, pocket books, receipt books, sketch books, notebooks, order books and the like, not being goods falling within sub-item 48.18.2	43.125%	16.875%
48.18.2	Books, being combined text and exercise books, that is to say books that incorporate text and make provision for questions and answers	Free	Free
2 Omit sub-item 49.01.1, substitute the following sub-item:			
49.01.1	Australian directories, guides and timetables	25%	25%
3 Omit sub-item 49.05.1, substitute the following sub-item:			
49.05.1	Australian street directories, road guides and the like	25%	25%
4 Omit sub-items 49.07.2 and 49.07.9, substitute the following sub-item:			
49.07.9	Other	25%	25%
5 Omit items 49.08 and 49.09, substitute the following items:			
49.08	*Transfers (that is to say, decalcomanias)	35%	35%
49.09	*Picture postcards and pictorial greeting cards, printed by any process, with or without trimmings	25%	25%
6 Omit item 49.10, substitute the following item:			
49.10	*Calendars (including calendar blocks) of paper or paperboard	35%	35%
7 Omit item 49.11, substitute the following item:			
49.11	*Other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs:		
49.11.1	Goods, as follows: a designs for melamineware; b reproductions of fine art pictures as defined by by-law; c scripture cards	5%	5%
49.11.9	Other:		
49.11.91	Goods, as follows: a greeting, condolence, invitation cards and the like; b memorandum and other printed forms; c pictorial views, not being calendar backs; d prospectuses; and e tickets	25%	25%
49.11.99	Other	35%	35%

The Australian Prime Minister has announced that the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Tariff Board to increase the bounty payable on certain books printed in Australia from 25 per cent to 33⅓ per cent of the printers net invoice price to the publisher. This will be effective from 17 December 1973 but will not be paid until appropriate legislation is introduced in the autumn session of Parliament. Details of the bounty scheme will be published in *Trade and Industry* as soon as possible.

EDB ext. 468/469/401

Domestic appliances: duty changes following inquiry

A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 16 June 1971, reported a reference (along with nine others) to the Australian Tariff Board on domestic appliances and heating and cooling equipment under the review of chapter 84. As a result of the inquiry changes have been made in the customs tariff affecting the rates of duty. Full details will be published as soon as possible; in the meantime brief details only are available.

EDB ext. 468/469/401

Revocation of dumping duties

The dumping duty has been discontinued from 17 December 1973 on high speed drill rod (tariff item 73.15) from 19 December 1973 and on straight tubular electric fluorescent discharge lamps (tariff item 85.20), paper and paperboard (chapter 48), citric acid (tariff item 29.16) and sorbitol aqueous solutions (tariff item 29.04). Ref. CRE 23536/4

CRE ext. 5318

Tyres: by-law Tariff Board inquiry result

A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 2 August 1973, stated that a reference had been made to the Australian Tariff Board on by-law entry of tyres and tyre cases size 29–5 by 29 (tariff item 40.11). As a result of the inquiry tyres and tyre cases classified as L5 in world-wide accepted tyre code, will be admitted into Australia under by-law until reasonably available from local manufacture.

EDB ext. 468/469/401

New Zealand

Unwrought aluminium, salt – tariff inquiries

The New Zealand Minister of Customs asked the Tariff and Development Board to undertake inquiries into the goods listed in the attached schedules with the objective of providing Government with a basis for restructuring and updating the tariff to establish, where possible, adequate rates of duty protection on the goods involved.

For the purpose of taking evidence the Board will hold public hearings commencing at the times and on the dates shown below in the Hearing Room, Eighth Floor, Cumberland House, Upper Willis Street, Wellington.

Goods	Time and date of public hearing	Closing date for receipt of representations	Tariff provisions items under reference
Unwrought aluminium of ex tariff heading 76.01	10.30 a.m. 11 June 1974	11 May 1974	Schedule A
Salt of ex tariff heading 25.01	10.30 a.m. 18 June 1974	18 May 1974	Schedule B

Parties intending to make representations or requests about appropriate rates of customs duty are asked to take into account the statement of 7 May 1973 by the Minister of Overseas Trade on the phasing out of British preferences from the New Zealand Tariff, the statement of 7 May 1973 by the Minister of Trade and Industry on the interim New Zealand-Australia Trade Agreement 1973 and the statement of 27 July 1973 by the Minister of Overseas Trade on the New Zealand-Canada Trade Agreement 1973. Copies of these statements can be obtained from the Tariff and Development Board. In a letter dated 6 April 1973 the Minister of Trade and Industry indicated that, while Government had asked the Board to consider the question of a single tariff rate, for trade policy reasons the Board's recommendations on the aspect would not necessarily be made public for the time being.

The attention of interested parties is drawn to the fact that the Board may find it appropriate to comment upon and compare the relative merits of protection by means of tariff rates and import licensing when used jointly or separately.

Any person who intends to tender evidence should lodge, in typewritten form, 14 copies of public evidence and 12 copies of confidential evidence, to be presented under oath at the public hearing, with Mr. F. E. Beaufort, Secretary, Tariff and Development Board, PO Box 27046, Wellington, New Zealand, not later than the dates shown. 'Notes for the Guidance of Witnesses', which indicate the kind of information required and the manner in which it should be submitted to the Tariff and Development Board, can be seen at the Department of Trade and Industry, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469). Each statement of evidence will in general need to be presented under oath at the public inquiry by the person tendering it.

Any changes made are likely to remain in force for a considerable period; any exporters whose trade is likely to be affected are urged

to consider seriously the desirability of submitting evidence at the forthcoming inquiry.

In any instance where no evidence is received in respect of any goods classified within a particular Tariff item the Board may recommend that no protective rates of duty be applied to those goods.

Firms proposing to give independent evidence through their agents in New Zealand or through the Director of the British Trade Association of New Zealand Inc., PO Box 11-363, Wellington, New Zealand (telegraphic address "Transtrade", tel. Wellington 43-706), and requiring information should approach the Commercial Relations and Exports Division. The BTANZ charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed and whether the trade association or firm is a member. Ref. CRE 1222/73

Number	Description	Rates of duty BP	MFN	GEN
SCHEDULE A				
76.01	Unwrought aluminium; aluminium waste and scrap:			
	Unwrought aluminium:			
76.01.001	Bars and rods	Free	10%	12½%
76.01.009	Other	Free	..	Free
SCHEDULE B				
25.01	Common salt (including rock salt, sea salt and table salt); pure sodium chloride; salt liquors; sea water:			
25.01.002	Salt, iodised per cwt	Free	..	15c
25.01.003	Salt, not iodised; pure sodium chloride per cwt	Free	..	15c
25.01.009	Other	Free	..	Free

Ref. CRE 1222/73 **CRE ext. 5321**

Canada

Food and Drug Regulations: food additives

The Canadian Department of Health and Welfare has issued Information Letter 410 which states that it is proposed to delete from the Food Additive tables in Division 16 of Part B of the Food and Drug Regulations certain substances of which there is evidence that they are no longer commercially available or are no longer used in foods manufactured and sold in Canada. Copies of the letter, which lists the substances to be deleted, are available. Comments are invited by 11 March. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

Argentina

Tariff amendments

Argentine Decree 1784/73 makes various amendments to the Customs Import Tariff:

Article 1 of the decree amends the import duty rates of certain headings to read as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad val* cif
29.35.25.03	beta-9-diiso-propylpamino-ethyl-9-xanthene carboxylate methobromide (Propantheline bromide and its equivalents)	20%
29.39.08.50	(17-Ethynyl-3,17-dihydroxy-3,17-diacetate)-4-androstene (ethynodiol diacetate)	20%
29.39.03.01	Chorionic gonadotrophin (human)	20%
29.39.03.02	Serumal gonadotrophin (equine)	20%
29.44.02.03	Demethylchlortetracycline ('Ledermycin' and its synonyms)	20%
30.01.00.25	Other extracts of glands or other organs or of their secretions, in powder form	10%
92.11.00.08	Industrial apparatus for recording sounds on magnetic tape	5%

CRE telephone 01-222 7877 **EDB** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to these numbers are given at the end of each notice.

Article 2 of the decree replaces certain descriptions of sub-headings under the following tariff nos.:

39.01	39.02	39.03	39.07	84.13	84.33	84.45	90.17

Further information on the new descriptions is available upon request.

Article 3 breaks down tariff no. 80.04 into two sub-headings, as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad val* cif
80.04.00.01	Tin strip of up to 0.015 mm thickness and up to 50 mm width for the manufacture of condensers	15%
80.04.00.99	Other	100%

Article 4 makes the following additions, with their corresponding rates of import duty:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad val* cif
28.15.00.05	Micronized selenium sulphide	20%
29.04.02.14	Methyl isobutyl carbinol	60%
29.16.04.33	Ethylic P-chloro phenoxy-isobutyrate	5%
29.35.15.81	Diphenoxylate chlorohydrate or 2,2 diphenyl-4 (4 carboxy-4-phenyl-piperidine) butyronitryl ethylic ester chlorohydrate	20%
29.36.00.18	Sodium sulphathiazole	20%
29.42.04.37	2 (Benzhydroloxy)-N,N dimethyl ethylamine (dimenhydrinate) 8 Chlorotheophylinate	20%
73.11.02.06	Special, cold rolled, with one or two lugs, for the manufacture of track slide guides for common sewing machines, of the following chemical composition: C: 0.12% maximum; Mn: 0.45% maximum; P: 0.06% maximum and S: 0.06% maximum, with import licence from the Military Factories Directorate and the Under-Secretary to Industry	15%
90.29.02.10	Support for electrophorensis, consisting of cellulose acetate gel, of tixotropic character, serologically neutral, embedded in methylic alcohol and water (Celogel and its synonyms)	5%
90.29.02.12	Graphic galvanometric double channel 0-1 ma. register, needle response 0.25 seconds, channel register width 110 mm	5%

Article 5 includes the following descriptions under tariff sub-heading 30.03.01.51:

Lyophilised product ampoule-vial, injectable, anti-cancerous, with a basis of mitracine (Mitracin and its synonyms).

Argentine Decree 432/73 makes certain amendments to the customs import tariff. The rate of import duty against the following sub-heading is increased to that shown below:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad val* cif/ official value
37.02.00.01	For radiography, in bulk (emulsion base, in rolls, of useful width of not less than 100 cm, without cutting)	50%

The texts of the following subheading nos. have been replaced by those descriptions shown below:

Tariff no.	Description
29.21.00.33	Aryl, alkylaryl and alkydic phosphites of C3 to C13
29.39.06.35	9-Alpha-fluor-16-methyl-prednisolone (phosphate) (Beta-methasone phosphate and Disodium Beta-methasone phosphate)

The following tariff subheading has been removed from the tariff:

Tariff no.	Description
30.03.01.53	Macromolecular polysaccharide, partly hydrolised, suspended in a isotonic saline solution ('Dextran' or Dextraplus to 6 per cent and its synonyms)

The following tariff subheadings have been included in the tariff with their corresponding duty rates:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad val* cif
29.35.14.03	(1,undecyl-2 amino-ethanoyl-pyridyl) ethane chloride or (1-lauryl-2-formyl-methyl-pyridine) colamine chloride (commercially DG-6 and its synonyms)	5%
29.35.15.71	2-6 Dimethyl, 3,5 dichloro, 4-pyridinol	90%
73.15.22.03	Silicon, smooth, in reels, with insulating coating, not further worked, destined for continuous matrix cutting processes by means of automatic feed, with import licence from the Military Factories Directorate and the Secretary of State for Industrial Development	25%
76.04.00.03	Smooth aluminium foil of thickness up to 0.005 mm	15%

Lead and zinc ore and concentrates

Argentine decree 436/73 removes the rates of import duty against subheadings 26.01.06.00 and 26.01.07.00 and divides the two headings into the following categories:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad val* cif
26.01.06.00	Lead ore and concentrates:	
26.01.06.01	Lead ore and concentrates, with import licence from the Secretaries of State for Natural Resources and Environment and for Industrial Development	30%
26.01.06.99	Other	60%
26.01.07.00	Zinc ore and concentrates:	
26.01.07.01	Zinc ore and concentrates, with import licence from the Secretaries of State for Natural Resources and Environment and for Industrial Development	30%
26.01.07.99	Other	60%

Dry bulk cargo vessels

Argentine Decree 1541/73 makes the following addition to Tariff no. 89.01:

Tariff no.	Description	Duty
89.01.02.39	Vessels for dry bulk cargoes, with self-loading holds of 8,000 tons or more gross tonnage, speed 10 knots or more and up to 10 years old, importation authorised as laid down in Decree 52 of 17.6.70	Free

Artificial fibre yarn

Argentine Decree 1791/73 makes the following addition to Tariff no. 51.01:

Tariff no.	Description	Duty
51.01.02.02	High tenacity continuous artificial fibre yarn destined for the manufacture of 'cord' fabrics, with import licence from the Under-Secretary to Industry	Free

EDB ext. 474/476/7312

Antigua

Mineral waters, spirits and tobacco: duties increased

Antigua Government notice No. 2 of 1974 announced the following increases in customs duties:

Article	Rates of duty Full	Preferential
Aerated and mineral waters, natural and artificial: per dozen reputed pints plus	25c per doz 5% *ad val*	17c per doz 5% *ad val*
Spirits:		
Brandy	$9.00 proof gal or under	$7.80 proof gal or under
Gin	$7.80 proof gal or under	$6.60 proof gal or under
Whisky	$10.20 proof gal or under	$6.60 proof gal or under
Potable	$7.20 proof gal or under	$6.00 proof gal or under
Tobacco and snuff:		
Tobacco unmanufactured (including scrap tobacco and tobacco stems)	$2.70 per lb.	$2.70 per lb.
Manufactured:		
Cigars	$6.20 per lb.	$5.36 per lb.
Cigarettes	$6.20 per lb.	$5.50 per lb.
Snuff	$6.20 per lb.	$4.80 per lb.
Other manufactured tobacco	$5.36 per lb.	$4.24 per lb.

EDB ext. 7312/474/476

Dominican Republic

Alcoholic beverages: new tax

The Dominican Republic's Law 59 signed in Santo Domingo on 7 November 1973 decrees that a new and additional tax has been placed on the following imported alcoholic beverages:

Whisky, cognac, brandy, gin, vodka, rum, taquila and similar strong beverages	RD$ 0.53 per litre
Wines of all kinds, liqueurs and aperitifs	RD$ 0.15 per litre
All kinds of beer	RD$ 0.15 per litre
Cider	RD$ 0.10 per litre

EDB ext. 474/476/7312

Jamaica

New customs tariff

The new Jamaican customs tariff based on the Common External Tariff of the Caribbean Community has been received in the OTAR Section, Export Data Branch. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Aluminium foil: industrial incentives law

Aluminium foil and combination products have been declared 'approved products' for the purposes of the Industrial Incentives Law 1956. A notice that consideration was being given to designate these products appeared in *Trade and Industry*, 18 October 1973, page 136. Applications for the status of 'approved product' and 'approved manufacturer' are processed by the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, 4 Winchester Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica (PO Box 505). It would be appreciated if firms writing to the Corporation would copy their initial correspondence to the British High Commission, Commercial Department, PO Box 393, Kingston, Jamaica. **CRE ext. 3572**

Radio components: import licensing

The Jamaican authorities announced in notice No. 2876 of 14 January 1974 that components and parts of radios (including amplifiers and tuners, etc.) now require an import licence. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Montserrat

Customs duties and consumption tax changes

The Montserrat authorities' SR&O No. 28 of 1973 lists changes in customs duties and consumption tax on food, drinks, tobacco, wood, pharmaceuticals, toilet preparations, soap and vehicles. Further information is available. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

St. Lucia

Deposit of 10 per cent by foreign contractors

All work permits issued by the St. Lucia authorities to foreign contractors, will contain a clause that the contractor deposit in cash or bond a sum not less than 10 per cent of the contract. Further information can be obtained from OTAR Section, Export Data Branch, DTI. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Trinidad and Tobago

Canned meats: regulations changed

The Trinidad and Tobago authorities have changed the regulations on the import of commercially canned meats. The temperature at which meats are to be heated in their metal cans is now 165 degrees Fahrenheit instead of 173 degrees. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Guyana

Consumption tax

The Guyana authorities' notice No. 152 of 1973 states that consumption tax has been put on waters, air-conditioning machines, shavers, microphones, tapes, tape-recorders and tape reproducers.

The tax has been increased on cigarettes, lubricating oils, washing, ironing and drying machines, wringers and mangles, electro-mechanical domestic appliances, water heaters, electro-thermic domestic appliances, radio and television broadcast receivers, gramophones and records. Further information is available. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Import restrictions

The Guyana Government, by order No. 2 of 5 January 1974, has imposed import licensing on a wide range of textiles, ready-made clothing, haberdashery and footwear. Further information is available. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1971	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9,223	2,129	2,087	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1968	95	97	97	87	87	439	269	85	60	−284	−659	375
1969	97	98	98	93	92	416	320	42	13	445	−143	588
1970	99	100	100	100	100	257	175	68	38	692	−9	701
1971	100	103	100	92	101	−7	−218	52	21	1,061	285	776
1972	102	109	102	83	111	−412	−498	28	22	83	−685	768
1971 1st qtr	98	100	100	96	97	114	10	14	−22	145	−52	197
2nd qtr	100	102	101	94	102	103	−113	26	7	288	105	183
3rd qtr	100	103	101	92	105	−18	67	9	15	380	172	208
4th qtr	101	105	101	88	102	—	−47	3	21	248	60	188
1972 1st qtr	100	106	103	88	105	−136	−156	15	−9	79	−119	198
2nd qtr	102	108	102	84	110	−104	−145	−12	40	131	−50	181
3rd qtr	102	109	101	81	110	−87	−125	4	−8	−110	−284	174
4th qtr	104	111	102	81	118	−85	−72	22	−1	−17	−232	215
1973 1st qtr	108	114	110	87	123	245	168	18	52	−187	−364	177
2nd qtr	107	112	103	84	107	193	87	−14	166	−208	−411	203
3rd qtr	108	113	108	91	115	147	91	19	34	−317 p	−550 p	233 p
% change latest 2 quarters:												
on prev. 2 quarters	+1.9	+0.3	−0.1	+3.6	−8.2							
on a year earlier	+5.9	+4.0	+4.5	+5.9	+0.4							

	Index of Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices: Index‡	Index of retail prices: % increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages									monthly averages	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan 16 1962		1970	1970	July 31, 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1970	100.0	100.0	99.0	91.4	140.2	6.4	100.0	100.0	78.5	568	2.5	186	658	659
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	733	709
1972	102.2	101.6	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	761	818
1973				137.3	179.4	9.2	144.1	123.2*	115.5	581	2.6	304	957 p	1,152 p
1971 4th qtr	100.4	99.0	102.1	132	157.3	9.2	104.8	110.8	92.7	832	3.7	118	748	728
1972 1st qtr	98.0	98.4	102.1	124	159.7	8.0	105.6	112.1	95.9	870	3.8	124	728	767
2nd qtr	102.7	101.3	104.6	147	162.7	6.2	106.1	113.5	98.1	835	3.7	135	769	786
3rd qtr	102.4	101.6	107.2	139	165.4	6.5	109.4	115.6	102.2	809	3.6	146	686	781
4th qtr	105.7	105.3	109.5	144	169.4	7.7	115.6	118.0	107.8	754	3.3	176	862	939
1973 1st qtr	110.4	110.5	112.0	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.8	665	2.9	229	878	1,004
2nd qtr	110.4	110.3	108.2	136	177.9	9.3	133.4	120.1*	112.6	602	2.6	292	937	1,079
3rd qtr	111.4	112.0	110.7	143	180.2	9.2	150.5	124.2	118.4	563	2.5	332	995	1,187
4th qtr				119	186.8	10.3	166.6	129.1	120.9	494	2.2	361	1,017 p	1,340 p
1973 Feb	110.7	111.2	111.8	155	172.4	7.9	126.0	119.6	108.9	660	2.9	238	899	976
Mar	111.9	112.6	114.2	151	173.4	8.2	129.4	120.0	109.5	630	2.8	254	867	1,074
Apr	110.0	109.9	107.1	138	176.7	9.2	130.5	118.8*	112.3	617	2.8	275	945	1,000
May	109.9	109.0	106.7	134	178.0	9.5	132.4	120.1	113.2	599	2.7	296	900	1,116
June	111.1	112.2	110.3	135	178.9	9.3	137.2	121.3	115.6	590	2.6	307	966	1,109
July	111.5	111.9	110.8	147	179.7	9.4	145.1	122.7	116.0	578	2.6	325	963	1,135
Aug	111.0	111.8	111.0	153	180.2	8.9	152.4	124.1	119.7	565	2.5	327	978	1,196
Sept	111.6	112.3	110.4	129	181.8	9.3	154.1	125.8	120.0	545	2.4	345	1,044	1,230
Oct	111.7	111.9	111.9	127	185.4	9.9	161.4	127.7	120.3	515	2.3	362	989 p	1,353 p
Nov	111.1	112.4	112.5	126	186.8	10.3	165.4 p	129.0 p	120.8	490	2.2	366	1,038 p	1,316 p
Dec				103	188.2	10.6	172.9 p	130.6 p	121.6	476	2.1	356	1,022 p	1,352 p
1974 Jan										537 p	2.4	301 p		
% change latest 3 months:														
on prev. 3 months	+0.2	+0.2	+0.7	−17.0	+3.5		+10.7	+3.9	+2.0	−7.5		−1.1	+2.1	+12.9
on a year earlier	+6.3	+7.4	+3.3	−17.8	+10.3		+44.0	+10.7	+11.9	−31.2		+81.0	+17.9	+42.7

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. * After April, affected by changes due to VAT

Monthly report on the economic situation

The following report on the economic situation, prepared by HM Treasury, will be published in *Economic Trends* for December at the end of the month. Unless otherwise stated, this report is based on seasonally adjusted data.

Energy

The world economic situation, and prospects for 1974, have been drastically affected by developments in the energy field. A number of Middle East Oil producers decided to reduce the supply of oil to the rest of the world to a level well below present requirements. In addition the major oil producing countries raised the posted price of crude oil by 70 per cent on October 16 and more than doubled it again on December 22. The impact of these actions on different countries varies according to their dependence on imported oil. The United Kingdom is relatively well placed compared with some other countries, due to the use of coal by the electricity supply industry. But for the time being the difficulties facing the oil-importing countries generally have, for the United Kingdom, been exacerbated by the coal miners' overtime ban which has reduced coal supplies to power stations by more than one third.

To meet the immediate coal problem, the Prime Minister announced on December 13 a number of measures designed to reduce the consumption of electricity by 20 per cent over and above the reduction brought about by previous measures. Consumption of electricity by industry for continuous process plant was reduced to 65 per cent of normal consumption, and electricity supplies for the rest of industry and for commerce were in general limited to 5 days in the two weeks ending December 30 and three specified days per week thereafter. Some exceptions were allowed, principally in the food sector.

The measures of December 13 were designed to preserve coal stocks for essential services, and to maintain production at the maximum level consistent with that objective in the light of the situation at the time. Since then, however, the power engineers' dispute has been settled and milder weather has helped to moderate electricity consumption.

In the light of the general energy outlook and balance of payments prospects for the UK in 1974, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on December 17 action to reduce aggregate demand by some £1,200 million in 1974/75. This is to be achieved partly by controls on consumer credit but primarily by means of public expenditure cuts, also amounting to £1,200 million over this period. The cuts involve reductions of one fifth in most capital programmes and of one tenth in most current expenditure other than staff costs.

Most recent indicators of demand and activity—which are outlined briefly below—do not cover the current month and so do not yet reflect the effects of these events. When they do, most of them can naturally be expected to show a drop.

Recent indicators

Third quarter of 1973. All three alternative measures of gross domestic product indicate that by about the middle of 1973 the previous fast rate of growth was slackening. This was in line with the official forecasts. The fast rate of growth is shown by the level of GDP in the third quarter of 1973 being 5½ to 6 per cent at an annual rate above that of the second half of 1972 (average of the three separate measures). But in the third quarter of 1973 GDP was less than 1 per cent above the average for the first half of the year and also less than 1 per cent above the second quarter.

The volume of consumers' expenditure rose by about ¾ per cent between the second and third quarters, but it was no higher than the average level of the first half-year (a comparison which reduced somewhat the distortion arising from the introduction of VAT). Public authorities' current expenditure on goods and services was 1½ per cent above the first half average, gross fixed investment 3 per cent above and exports of goods and services 2 per cent above. Imports of goods and services fell by ½ per cent in volume over this period, and the rise in stocks in the third quarter, while still substantial, was smaller than in the first two quarters.

There was some evidence of a slowing down in the rate of growth of gross trading profits in the third quarter. Provisional estimates show a rise of 1 per cent over the second quarter. Personal income before tax rose by about 2¾ per cent in the third quarter, and within the total wages and salaries rose by rather over 3 per cent. Most of the rise in personal disposable income was matched by price increases, leaving only a small increase in real personal disposable income which, however, was nearly 5½ per cent higher at an annual rate than in the second half of 1972. Although the personal savings ratio fell a little between the second and third quarters, 10.1 per cent it remained historically very high, and well above the 1972 average of 8.6 per cent.

Fourth quarter of 1973. The first preliminary estimate of the volume of consumers' expenditure in the fourth quarter shows a further rise of about ¾ per cent over the third quarter, but this still gives a rise of less than ½ per cent between the first and second halves of the year. In the three months to November, the volume of retail sales was ¾ per cent higher than in the preceding three months. Durable goods shops increased by 4 per cent. There are indications that there may have been a further increase in December, when there may have been some effect from the £10 bonus paid to pensioners. But new car registrations in October and November were well below the third quarter average and are provisionally estimated to have been even lower in December.

Investment

The latest survey of investment intentions by the Department of Trade and Industry suggest that there may have been a rise of about 6 per cent in manufacturing investment in 1973. The increase planned in 1974 was put at 12 to 14 per cent. This projected increase is a little lower than that suggested by the previous survey. But the current survey was taken in November and the first half of December, at a time of great uncertainty about energy supplies. The returns were completed before the measures of December 13 and 17 and the second increase in Middle-East oil prices and it is not known how far investment intentions will have been affected by these developments.

Industrial production

In the three months September to November both the index of industrial production and the index of manufacturing showed increases of only ¼ per cent over the preceding three months. Output in the chemical industry was continuing to rise rapidly—there was an increase of 5½ per cent compared with the previous three month period despite reports of raw material shortages—and there was also a significant increase in ferrous metal production; but in most other sectors output was flat or even slightly falling. However, compared with the second half of 1972 industrial production in the three months to November was 7 per cent higher (at an annual rate), and manufacturing production 8 per cent. In November output in the mining, and probably also the electricity industries, was reduced by the industrial disputes but manufacturing production does not appear to have been significantly affected.

Current account of the balance of payments

In December the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by about £259 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £330 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £71 million. Exports were £1,022 million, on a balance of payments basis in December. In the fourth quarter of last year they averaged 2 per cent higher than in the previous quarter, with deliveries to Western Europe 8 per cent higher. Imports in December were £1,352 million. They rose by 13 per cent between the third and fourth quarters, including a rise of 24 per cent in fuel imports which was brought about by the increases in the landed price of crude oil. In 1973 as a whole the deficit on visible trade was £2,348 million compared with £685 million in 1972; the worsening of the terms of trade, by 11 per cent, accounted for about four-fifths of the deterioration between the two years.

Labour market

The seasonally adjusted total of unemployed in Great Britain, excluding school-leavers and adult students, fell by 14,000 between the November and December counts to 476,000 or 2.1 per cent of all employees. This was a smaller fall than in most other recent months. There was a fall of 10,000 in the number of unfilled adult vacancies, the first month for just over two years that unfilled vacancies have failed to show an increase. It is difficult to judge how far these indicators, which both relate to the first half of the month, were

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affected by developments on the energy front. The restrictions on industrial use of electricity have led to a large increase in the number of workers laid off. The number of workers temporarily stopped had increased to about three-quarters of a million on January 17.

Prices

The retail price index (not seasonally adjusted) increased by ¾ per cent in December, as it had in November. The increase in food prices of 1¾ per cent was more than in November, though it was less than in the two preceding months. But the increase of only ½ per cent in non-food prices was the lowest since September.

Wholesale prices of home sales of manufactured products (not seasonally adjusted) increased by 1¼ per cent in December following an increase of about 1 per cent in the previous month. During 1973 as a whole they rose by 11½ per cent, with the increase for the food manufacturing industries amounting to 25 per cent. There was a further large rise of 4½ per cent in December in the index of basic materials and fuels purchased by manufacturing industry, due primarily to higher prices of food materials. During the year as a whole the index increased by 46 per cent.

Wages and earnings

Hourly wage rates for end-December and average earnings for November are published by the Department of Employment. In November the index of hourly wage rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased by rather under ½ per cent following two months in which it had remained largely unchanged. The seasonally adjusted index of average earnings increased by about 1 per cent in October.

Financial developments

In the five weeks to November 21, the narrow version of the money supply, M1, fell by ½ per cent while the broad version, M3, rose by 1¾ per cent. In the three weeks to December 12, M1 fell by ¼ per cent while M3 rose by 2½ per cent. Over the latest three months, M1 has fallen by ½ per cent, and M3 has risen by 6 per cent. With clearing bank lending rates less attractive in relation to short-term market rates, there may have been some unwinding of earlier arbitrage transactions in November. There does not seem to have been any significant increase in December in these transactions. Bank lending to the private sector in sterling continued to be the strongest expansionary inflence on M3 in banking November and December.

The measures of December 17 included action to restrain further the growth of consumer credit, including the reintroduction of controls over minimum deposits and maximum repayment periods under hire purchase contracts. The banks and finance houses have been requested not to lend to persons on terms morx favourable than those permitted under the hire purchase controls, and restrictions have also been placed on other forms of consumer finance including credit cards.

Further measures were also announced to supplement the existing controls over the growth of money and credit. The clearing banks are proposing to make their base rates more responsive to changes in market rates and thus to reduce the incentive for arbitrage transactions and intend in certain other ways to improve their control over their total lending. In addition a control technique was introduced under which banks and deposit-taking Finance houses will make interest-free special deposits at the Bank of England if their interest-bearing liabilities (calculated on a three month moving average basis) increase by over 8 per cent in the next six months. In view of these new arrangements it was decided to revoke the calls for special deposits, each of ½ per cent eligible liabilities, which were to have been made on December 27, 1973 and January 2, 1974.

The United Kingdom official reserves fell by $170 million during December after long-term debt servicing payments of $252 million and accruals of foreign currency borrowing totalling $350 million. At the end of December they stood at $6,476 million.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	ø fifty-three week period

The December current account of balance of payments

In December, the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by about £259 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £330 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £71 million.

Current account: three monthly analysis

£ million per month seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: trade in goods	Invisible balance: services and other transactions (See Note 1(h)
1972 1st quarter	+ 27	− 39	+66
2nd quarter	+ 43	− 17	+60
3rd quarter	− 37	− 95	+58
4th quarter	− 5	− 77	+72
1973 1st quarter	− 67	−123	+59
2nd quarter	− 74	−142	+68
3rd quarter	−114	−192	+78
August–October	−179	−255	+76*
September–November	−202	−275	+73*
October–December	−252	−323	+71*

* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available. Past experience suggests that they are unlikely to differ by more than £8 million a month from the first published quarterly estimates.

Visible trade

(a) Summary. In December there was a deficit on visible trade of £330 million seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £1,022 million and the value of imports £1,352 million.

There were again erratic movements in the trade in diamonds; a fall in exports between November and December and a rise in imports roughly equalled the increase of £52 million in the total deficit on visible trade between these months.

In the final quarter of 1973 the average monthly deficit on visible trade was £323 million compared with £192 million in the preceding

TABLE 1A Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million per month

	Exports (fob) (r)	Imports (fob) (r)	Visible balance (r)
1971	733	709	+ 24
1972	761	818	− 57
1973 p	957	1,152	−195
1971 1st quarter	669	686	− 17
2nd quarter	753	718	+ 35
3rd quarter	762	705	+ 57
4th quarter	748	728	+ 20
1972 1st quarter	728	767	− 39
2nd quarter	769	786	− 17
3rd quarter	686	781	− 95
4th quarter	862	939	− 77
1973 1st quarter	878	1,004	−126
2nd quarter	937	1,079	−142
3rd quarter	995	1,187	−192
4th quarter p	1,017	1,340	−323
July	963	1,135	−172
August	978	1,196	−218
September	1,044	1,230	−186
October p	989	1,353	−364
November p	1,038	1,316	−278
December p	1,022	1,352	−330

p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates (see Note 1(i)).

TABLE 1B Three-monthly averages**

	Exports (fob) (r)	Imports (fob) (r)	Visible balance (r)
1973 January	853	942	− 89
February	868	953	− 85
March	878	1,004	−126
April	904	1,022	−118
May	904	1,068	−164
June	937	1,079	−142
July	943	1,122	−179
August	969	1,147	−178
September	995	1,187	−192
October	1,004	1,259	−255
November	1,024	1,299	−275
December	1,017	1,340	−323

** Average of month shown and two preceding months (see Note 1(d)).

TABLE 2 Exports

Seasonally adjusted values § — £ million per month

	Overseas trade statistics basis (fob) (r)	Coverage adjustments	Net allowance for factors affecting recording †	Balance of payments basis (fob) (r)
1971	765	− 41	+ 9	733
1972	812	− 51	—	761
1973 p	1,038	− 82	—	957
1971 1st quarter	685	− 30	+14	669
2nd quarter	779	− 41	+15	753
3rd quarter	798	− 46	+10	762
4th quarter	799	− 46	− 5	748
1972 1st quarter	775	− 48	—	728
2nd quarter	818	− 49	—	769
3rd quarter	735	− 49	—	686
4th quarter	921	− 59	—	862
1973 1st quarter	946	− 68	—	878
2nd quarter	1,010	− 73	—	937
3rd quarter	1,084	− 89	—	995
4th quarter p	1,113	− 96	—	1,017
July	1,044	− 81	—	963
August	1,074	− 95	—	978
September	1,135	− 91	—	1,044
October p	1,094	−105	—	989
November p	1,134	− 95	—	1,038
December p	1,111	− 89	—	1,022

§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
† See Note 1(e).
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates (see Note 1(i)).

TABLE 3 Imports

Seasonally adjusted values § — £ million per month

	Overseas trade statistics basis (cif) (r)	Adjustments to balance of payments basis: Freight insurance and other valuation adjustments	Adjustments to balance of payments basis: Coverage adjustments ‡	Balance of payments basis (fob) (r)
1971	818	− 83	−26	709
1972	930	− 87	−24	818
1973 p	1,322	−117	−53	1,152
1971 1st quarter	792	− 85	−21	686
2nd quarter	820	− 84	−18	718
3rd quarter	816	− 82	−30	705
4th quarter	844	− 81	−35	728
1972 1st quarter	879	− 82	−30	767
2nd quarter	892	− 87	−19	786
3rd quarter	890	− 83	−27	781
4th quarter	1,057	− 95	−23	939
1973 1st quarter	1,139	−102	−33	1,004
2nd quarter	1,241	−110	−52	1,079
3rd quarter	1,378	−118	−73	1,187
4th quarter p	1,531	−138	−52	1,340
July	1,297	−107	−56	1,135
August	1,400	−125	−79	1,196
September	1,436	−121	−86	1,230
October p	1,547	−144	−50	1,353
November p	1,522	−141	−65	1,316
December p	1,524	−130	−42	1,352

§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates (see Note 1(i)).
‡ Including adjustments for arrivals of and payments for United States military aircraft up to the end of 1972.

quarter. For the three months ended November (the latest period for which information is available) the terms of trade were 6 per cent worse than in the previous three months. This was the result of a rise in the import unit value index of 11 per cent compared with one of 4 per cent in the export unit value index.

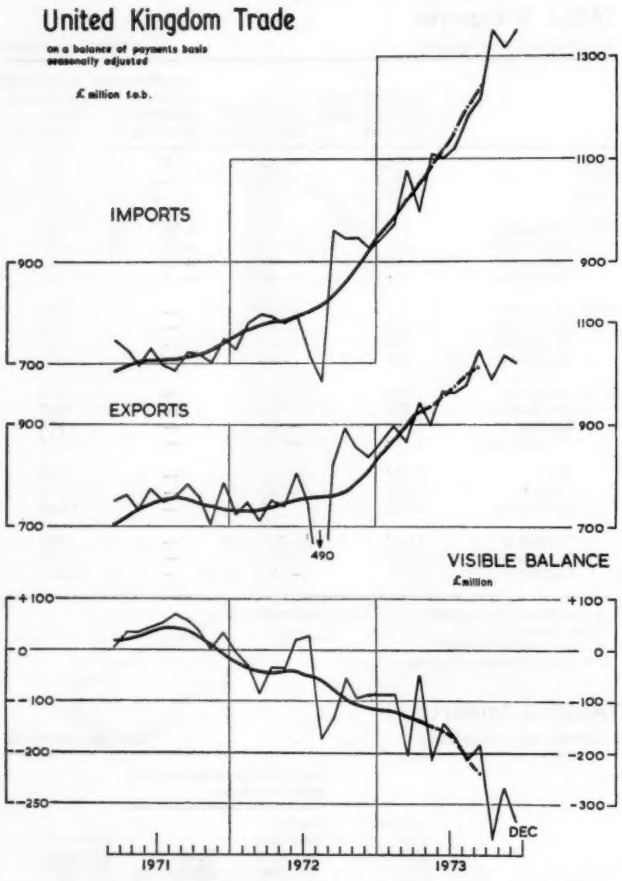


TABLE 4 Recorded values
Overseas trade statistics basis

£ million per month

		Exports fob ††	Imports cif ‡
1971	1st quarter	673.4	811.3
	2nd quarter	794.9	829.3
	3rd quarter	767.4	790.0
	4th quarter	822.9	847.3
1972	1st quarter	770.7	905.7
	2nd quarter	843.9	910.6
	3rd quarter	683.3	850.0
	4th quarter	950.7	1,052.1
1973	1st quarter	942.6	1,189.6
	2nd quarter	1,024.9	1,240.8
	3rd quarter	1,018.7	1,313.2
	4th quarter p	1,167.1	1,545.3
	October	1,193.7	1,668.5
	November r	1,238.2	1,564.9
	December p	1,069.5	1,420.6

†† No adjustment has been made in this table for special factors affecting the recording of exports (see Note 1(e)).
‡ Including arrivals of US military aircraft up to the end of 1972.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

For 1973 as a whole the deficit on visible trade was £2,348 million compared with a deficit of £685 million in 1972. The faster rise in import prices than in export prices—the terms of trade index fell by approximately 11 per cent between the two years—accounted for about four-fifths of the deterioration in the visible trade deficit.

(b) Exports. The value of exports in December was £1,022 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis.
In the final quarter of 1973 exports averaged £1,017 million per

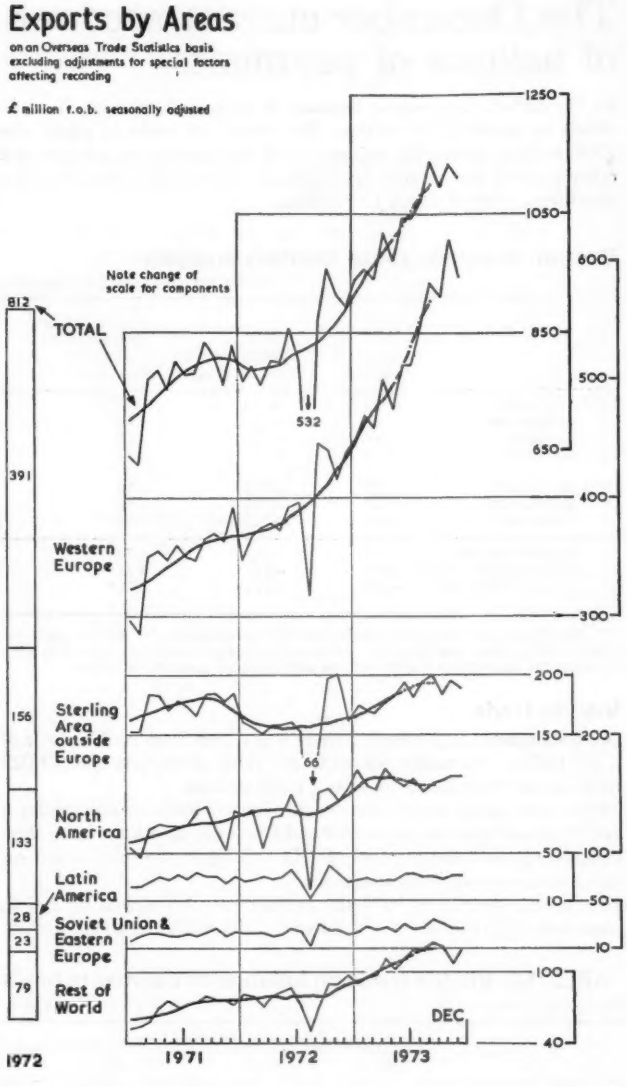


TABLE 5 Exports: Areas¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob per month

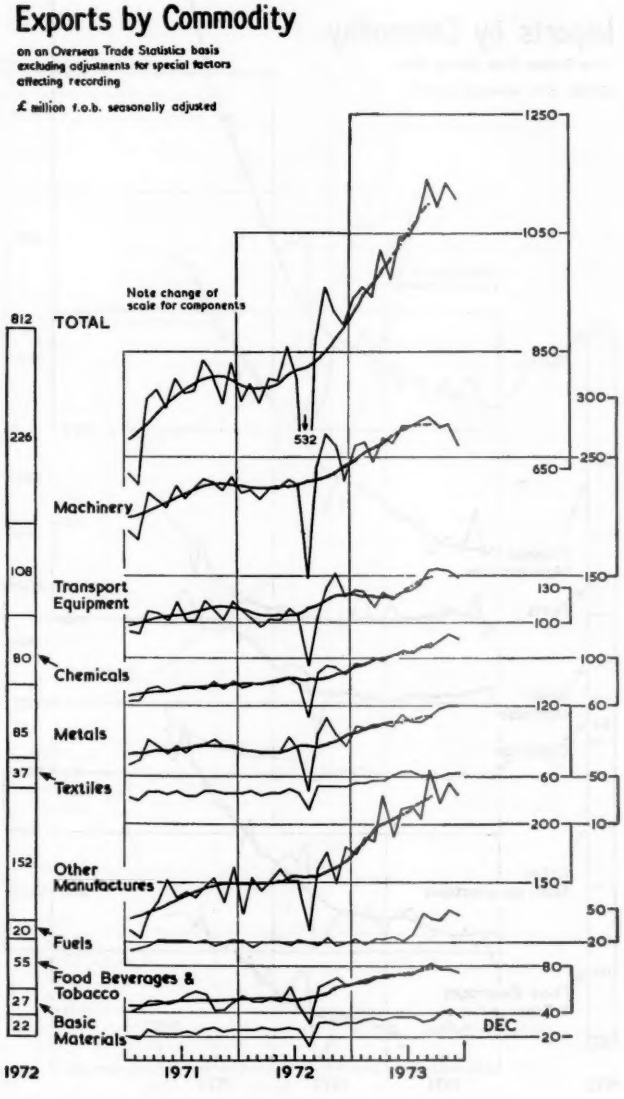
		Total	Sterling area outside Europe	Western Europe inc. Irish Republic* Total*	EEC*	EFTA*	North America	Latin America	Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	Rest of world
1972		812	156	391	245	112	133	28	23	79
1973 p		1,038	183	524	336	146	161	30	27	110
1973	1st qtr.	946	170	460	293	132	161	29	26	95
	2nd qtr.	1,010	184	495	319	136	163	29	27	108
	3rd qtr.	1,084	191	547	355	149	157	31	29	122
	4th qtr. p	1,113	188	591	376	166	163	29	27	115
	Oct.	1,094	183	570	351	175	161	28	30	120
	Nov.	1,134	195	619	400	175	164	30	27	107
	Dec. p	1,111	188	585	377	150	165	30	25	117

¶ See Note 1(b)
* See Note 1(g)
p Provisional estimates.

month, 2 per cent higher than in the previous quarter. Between these periods exports to Western Europe increased by 8 per cent (with deliveries to the EEC 6 per cent higher) and those to North America by 4 per cent. In contrast deliveries to the sterling area outside Europe fell by 2 per cent and to the rest of the world in aggregate the fall was 6 per cent.

Among the major commodity groups exports of chemicals rose by 9 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1973, while exports of other semi-manufactures increased by 5 per cent. Deliveries of machinery and transport equipment fell by 1 per cent between the two quarters although there was a rise of 7 per cent in shipments of road motor vehicles. Exports of non-manufactures were 6 per cent higher in the fourth quarter than in the third.

For 1973 as a whole the value of exports on a balance of payments basis was £11,482 million, 26 per cent higher than in 1972, about half of which reflected a higher volume of deliveries. This compares with an average annual rate of growth in the volume of exports of 6 per cent over the period 1967–1972.



(c) Imports. The value of imports in December was £1,352 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis.

In the fourth quarter of 1973, imports averaged £1,340 million a month, 13 per cent higher than in the previous quarter. Between these periods, imports of industrial materials increased by 13 per cent which included rises of 13 per cent in chemicals and 16 per cent in other semi-manufactures. The value of imports of food, beverages and tobacco rose by 5 per cent. Deliveries of finished manufactures increased by 7 per cent between the two quarters; imports of road motor vehicles showed an 11 per cent fall from their high third quarter level.

Arrivals of fuels were by value 24 per cent higher than in the third quarter, a rise brought about by the increases in the landed price of crude oil, which accounts for about three-quarters of all imports of fuels. The average per ton which was just over £11 cif in the third quarter of 1973 rose sharply in the fourth quarter and was nearly £18 cif in December (see Table 9).

Among the major sources of our imports, arrivals from Western Europe rose by 7 per cent in the fourth quarter as compared to the third quarter with imports from the EEC also increasing by 7 per cent in value. Imports from the sterling area outside Europe continued their strong increase, being 20 per cent higher between the two quarters (some of the oil-producing countries are included in the sterling area), while imports from North America were 15 per cent higher. For the rest of the world in aggregate, the increase in the value of imports between the same two quarters was 8 per cent.

For 1973 as a whole, the value of imports on a balance of payments basis was £13,830 million, 41 per cent higher than in 1972; about two-thirds of this rise was attributable to the increased price of imports reflecting the depreciation of sterling and the large rises in world commodity prices.

Notes

1(a) Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly Overseas Trade Statistics. These adjustments are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade

TABLE 6 Exports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob per month

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1972	812	55	27	20	688	335	226	76	32	80	85	37	152	22
1973 p	1,038	73	36	31	872	398	268	92	38	106	109	49	209	27
1973 1st quarter	946	68	34	21	801	377	256	88	33	96	102	45	182	22
2nd quarter	1,010	72	36	22	857	393	269	90	33	102	106	50	208	25
3rd quarter	1,084	77	34	37	903	416	281	92	43	107	107	51	221	27
4th quarter p	1,113	77	39	42	928	412	272	98	45	117	120	51	225	31
October	1,094	75	40	37	928	421	276	95	47	117	119	50	216	27
November	1,134	77	42	46	945	418	278	99	45	119	121	52	234	31
December p	1,111	74	36	42	912	398	261	101	42	116	120	52	225	36

¶ See Note 1(b)
p Provisional estimates

Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special US Exim Bank credit. (The values involved are now small.) All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual 'Pink Book', *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1973* (Table 6 and pp. 62-66) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated November 4, 1970.
Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

1(b) The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports, and cannot be estimated for the area and commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 5 to 8 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis and correspond with the totals given in the first columns of Tables 2 and 3. Whereas comment on total trade relates to total exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in Tables 5 to 9. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.
The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. These averages, for the month in question and the two preceding months, are given in Table 1A. Although they are still sensitive to irregular movements in the monthly figures and to special influences, they are markedly less variable than the monthly figures. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flow of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

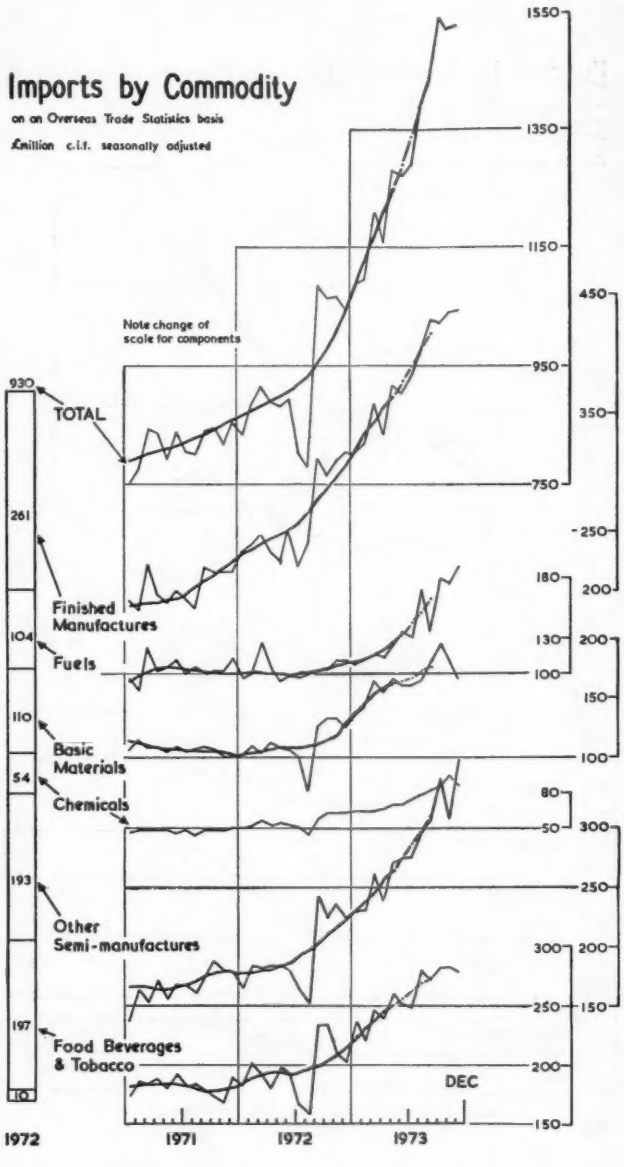


TABLE 7 Imports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

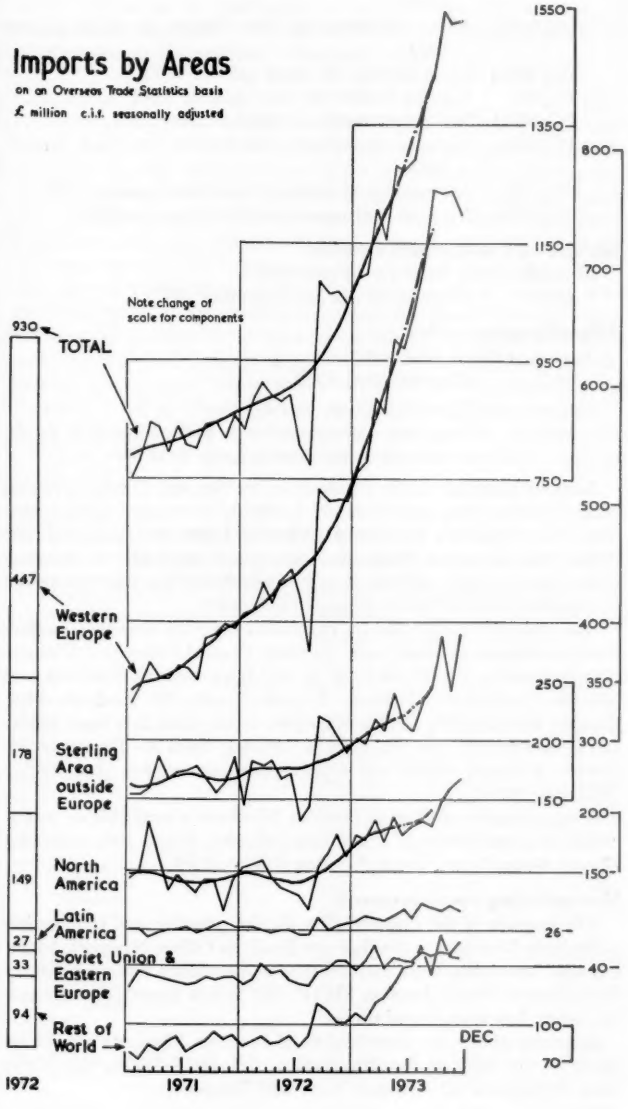
Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif per month

		Industrial materials					Finished manufactures					
								Machinery and transport equipment				
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Other	Miscellaneous
1972	930	197	104	358	110	54	193	261	131	40	16	74	10
1973 p	1,322	258	144	522	164	75	284	386	198	54	22	112	13
1973 1st quarter	1,139	235	112	450	146	64	240	334	170	50	19	93	10
2nd quarter	1,241	250	127	485	160	68	258	358	186	49	16	107	11
3rd quarter	1,378	267	147	537	168	78	291	405	208	64	24	114	14
4th quarter p	1,531	280	182	606	180	88	337	434	222	56	31	127	16
October	1,547	282	181	624	195	87	342	428	222	59	22	127	18
November	1,522	282	175	584	179	93	311	436	225	54	32	123	18
December p	1,524	278	190	611	167	85	359	438	219	56	38	130	12

¶ See Note 1(b)
p Provisional estimates

1(e) Recording of exports. The new system for the documentation of exports to ensure their full recording has applied to goods shipped from October 25, 1971 (see *Trade and Industry* August 19, 1971).

Regular assessments of the quality of recording under the new system have shown that, since the beginning of 1972, there has been no need to make adjustments to the export figures for either a shortfall in documentation or a change in the speed of submission of documents.



The new system for recording exports and the methods used to monitor its accuracy are described in an article in *Trade and Industry* February 15, 1973.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics

TABLE 9 Imports of petroleum and petroleum products(1)
Division 33 of SITC (R)

Seasonally adjusted (2) — Monthly averages

	Total	Crude oil			Rest of division (5)
	£ million cif	£ million cif	Million tons (3)	Average value per ton £ cif (4)	£ million cif
1968	73	49	7	7.5	24
1969	74	53	8	7.1	21
1970	77	57	8	6.9	20
1971	99	77	9	8.8	22
1972	97	76	9	8.9	21
1973	140	108	9	11.5	32
1st quarter	110	81	8	9.7	29
2nd quarter	123	94	9	10.1	28
3rd quarter	147	110	10	11.1	37
4th quarter	180	146	10	14.9	34
October	179	143	11	12.7	37
November	172	138	9	14.8	34
December	189	158	9	17.8	31

(1) The total shown in the table represents about 97 per cent of imports of fuels shown in table 7.

(2) The figures of value and tonnage have been seasonally adjusted using the same seasonal adjustment factors as have been used for the fuels total in table 7. The average per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage: since both figures have been seasonally adjusted by the same factors the average value per ton is the same as would be obtained by using the actual figures of the value and tonnage of imports.

(3) It should be noted that for two reasons the crude oil tonnages quoted above cannot be compared directly with import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy (formerly part of Department of Trade and Industry) and published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics and Digest of Energy Statistics*. First, the trade account data are adjusted by seasonal and length of working month factors. Secondly, the trade accounts are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise whereas the Department of Energy's figures are received directly from the oil industry. These two sources have different reporting procedures and over periods as short as one month these can give rise to different estimates of crude oil imports. Over longer periods the differences are largely resolved.

(4) The average value per ton, obtained on a cif basis will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil, or to differing sources of consignment.

(5) Includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

TABLE 8 Imports: Areas¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif per month

	Total	Sterling area outside Europe	Western Europe inc. Irish Republic*			North America	Latin America	Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	Rest of World
			Total*	EEC*	EFTA*				
1972	930	178	447	293	134	149	27	33	94
1973 p	1,322	235	660	433	198	197	40	47	142
1973 1st quarter	1,139	206	552	361	169	184	36	46	111
2nd quarter	1,241	222	614	409	179	183	38	41	134
3rd quarter	1,378	229	708	461	217	190	42	47	153
4th quarter p	1,531	273	757	494	226	218	43	54	164
October	1,547	287	762	497	228	207	42	52	176
November	1,522	243	764	499	231	221	46	50	158
December p	1,524	290	744	488	220	227	42	61	157

p Provisional estimates
¶ See Note 1(b)
* See Note 1(g)

correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.
The restrictions on the use of electricity introduced in December are unlikely to have had any appreciable effect on the figures. December imports are unlikely to have been immediately affected and, for the reason described in the previous paragraph, the December export figures relate on average to goods shipped between about mid-November and mid-December.

1(g) Area analyses of trade. To take into account the change in composition of selected areas arising from the entry on January 1, 1973 of the Irish Republic and Denmark into the enlarged EEC the area headings in Tables 5 and 8 of this article have been revised or re-defined. Figures for the Irish Republic are included with those for Western Europe and the EEC and to avoid double counting have been excluded from the Sterling area which has now been designated as 'Sterling area outside Europe'. Figures for Denmark are of course included with those for the EEC and not EFTA. In order to facilitate meaningful comparisons with past periods all figures in both these seasonally adjusted tables are on the present 1973 definition of the selected areas and groups of countries. The analyses in the text are based on the figures in these tables. Standard definitions of all areas and some economic grouping of countries are shown in the *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom.*

1(h) The invisible balance (services and other current transactions) covers the following items. Government services and transfer payments; all other services including transport, travel and banking and financial transactions; net overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers.

1(i) Revisions to seasonally adjusted figures. The usual end year adjustments have been made to some of the 1973 seasonally adjusted monthly values on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis to bring the total of the individual months into line with the cumulative recorded total for the year.

2 Overseas trade statistics. Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports with cumulative totals will be published early in February† and further analysis of the figures will be found in Tables 122 to 139 in the *Monthly Digest* for February‡, due to be published in the second week of March.

† *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £1.85 (annual subscription £25.05).
‡ *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price 63p (annual subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage, £8.60).

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New printing arrangements

The transfer of the responsibility for the printing and publication of Business Monitors to the Business Statistics Office, Newport, Mon., has now been completed and the unit in Sanctuary Buildings, 16–20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DP which formerly undertook this work, has been closed down.

Inquiries about the distribution of Business Monitors should be made to the Business Statistics Office, (tel. 0633–56111, ext. 2700; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BS0 Newport).

New Business Monitor for miscellaneous textiles

The first results of a new statistical inquiry into manufacturers' sales of miscellaneous textiles have been published in the Business Monitor series. The results relate to sales during the first and second quarters of 1973 and the new Monitor covers sales of coir manufactures, needlefelt, tufted fabrics, bonded fibre, woven plastic matting and upholstery hair fibre and filling.

The figures on the new Monitor are compiled from returns received from establishments with 25 or more employees classified to Minimum List Heading 429.2 of the Standard Industrial Classification (Miscellaneous Textiles). They also include sales of the principal products of this industry by establishments employing 25 or more persons classified to other industries, included in the new system of quarterly inquiries.

The new Monitor (Reference PQ 429.2) is available on subscription of 37½p (including postage) per year from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1.

Motor vehicle production in December and year 1973

Including some weekly estimates for January 1974

This Notice shows the statistics of motor vehicle production in December and the year 1973. It also presents for the first time weekly estimates of production of motor cars and commercial vehicles, covering the first three weeks of 1974, compiled with the co-operation of the main manufacturing companies.

Summary

Production of motor vehicles in December fell to a low level partly as a result of the emergency measures introduced towards the end of the month. Output of cars in the first five week period ending 29 December amounted to 159,454, equivalent to an average weekly rate of 31,891 units – some 15 per cent below that achieved in December 1972. Commercial vehicles, which totalled 40,133 (8,027 units per week), were 7 per cent lower than in December 1972.

Estimates of production for the first three weeks of January show that with the three day working week output of motor cars on average has been 34 per cent lower than the weekly rate over the year 1973, and production of commercial vehicles is 41 per cent lower than the average for last year. These estimates are, however, affected by the introduction of the Bank Holiday on New Year's Day.

(The comments in the following two paragraphs relate, unless otherwise stated, to the position based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2).

Cars

Production of cars in December was significantly lower for both home and export markets after relatively favourable levels of output in the two previous months. The fall appeared to be mainly due to the introduction of the emergency measures towards the end of the month, but there was also some loss of production at plants in Scotland as a result of the introduction of an additional public holiday on 26 December. The average level of production over the last quarter of 1973 was 1 per cent higher than in the preceding three months. This was mainly due to the better performance on the export side, where sales were especially high in October and November.

Commercial vehicles

The factors which caused the low output of motor cars in December also affected the production of commercial vehicles. Although this was slightly higher than in November it was lower than in any other month since May, and for the fourth quarter as a whole was 10 per cent lower than in the preceding three months. Although export production increased slightly between the third and fourth quarters, production for the home market fell by 18 per cent.

Weekly estimates in January 1974

During the period of the power emergency special arrangements have been made to collect weekly or other very short period figures of production from the main motor vehicle manufacturers.

In the first three weeks of 1974 total output of motor cars for the industry as a whole is estimated at 12,600, 28,300 and 25,600 units respectively. These levels of production compare with an average of 33,602 units a week for the whole of 1973 and 39,535 units a week

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and unassembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

	No. of weeks	Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
		For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1966	52	978,684	624,995	1,603,679	30,840	260,614	178,061	438,675	8,436
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,045	416,619	8,012
1972 1st quarter	13	312,399	167,804	480,203	36,939	63,793	31,477	95,270	7,328
2nd quarter	13	346,472	167,594	514,066	39,544	71,914	39,573	111,487	8,576
3rd quarter	13	277,386	118,992	396,378	30,491	53,114	27,161	80,275	6,175
4th quarter	13	371,624	159,040	530,664	40,820	83,828	37,259	121,087	9,314
1973 1st quarter	13	320,052	158,532	478,584	36,814	69,954	36,346	106,300	8,177
2nd quarter	13	290,253	155,749	446,002	34,308	69,399	39,980	109,379	8,414
3rd quarter	13	229,505	122,313	351,818	27,063	54,106	36,031	90,137	6,934
4th quarter	13	302,406	168,511	470,917	36,224	64,115	46,688	110,803	8,523
1972 January	4	92,654	47,901	140,555	35,139	21,543	9,339	30,882	7,721
February	4	83,678	47,851	131,529	32,882	17,052	8,324	25,376	6,344
March	5	136,067	72,052	208,119	41,624	25,198	13,814	39,012	7,802
April	4	92,248	52,839	145,087	36,272	20,258	11,469	31,727	7,932
May	4	116,373	55,935	172,308	43,077	24,726	13,843	38,569	9,642
June	5	137,851	58,820	196,671	39,334	26,930	14,261	41,191	8,238
July	4	70,488	31,412	101,900	25,475	14,628	7,364	21,992	5,498
August	4	85,880	32,751	118,631	29,658	15,019	6,873	21,892	5,473
September	5	121,018	54,829	175,847	35,169	23,467	12,924	36,391	7,278
October	4	117,734	50,786	168,520	42,130	25,617	11,029	36,646	9,162
November	4	125,118	49,527	174,645	43,661	28,866	12,194	41,060	10,265
December	5	128,772	58,727	187,499	37,500	29,345	14,036	43,381	8,676
1973 January	5	135,970	61,705	197,675	39,535	28,419	12,597	41,016	8,203
February	4	89,428	48,206	137,632	34,408	21,401	12,054	33,455	8,364
March	4	94,656	48,621	143,277	35,819	20,134	11,695	31,829	7,957
April	4	80,647	45,380	126,027	31,507	18,957	11,278	30,235	7,559
May	5	111,333	62,019	173,352	34,670	26,613	13,684	40,297	8,059
June	4	98,273	48,350	146,623	36,656	23,829	15,018	38,847	9,712
July	4	66,106	33,344	99,450	24,863	16,054	12,041	28,095	7,024
August	4	76,537	41,956	118,493	29,623	14,437	8,754	23,191	5,798
September	5	86,862	47,013	133,875	26,775	23,615	15,236	38,851	7,770
October	4	100,661	56,057	156,718	39,180	29,475	16,046	39,521	9,880
November	4	98,926	55,819	154,745	38,686	18,659	12,490	31,149	7,787
December	5	102,819	56,635	159,454	31,891	21,981	18,152	40,133	8,027

in January 1973. For commercial vehicles, the corresponding estimates of production for the first three weeks of January 1974 are 2,530, 5,670 and 5,880 units, which compare with weekly averages of 8,012 for 1973 as a whole and 8,203 in January of last year.
The low levels of output in the first week of January 1974 partly reflect an especially short week which included the new Bank Holiday on 1 January.

Production in 1973
Production of motor vehicles in 1973 totalled 1,747,321 and 416,619 for cars and commercial vehicles respectively. Output of passenger cars for the year was 9 per cent below that for 1972, most of the fall having occurred in production for the home market. Commercial vehicles were a modest 2 per cent higher than in 1972 but still well below the level of output in each of the preceding three years. Production of commercial vehicles for the home market declined in 1973. These lower levels of output in a year when home and export demand were strong largely reflect the fact that many more vehicles than usual were lost through industrial disputes.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influence (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).
Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and in the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGES — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1966	82	52	134	21.7	14.8	36.6
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	36.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1972 1st quarter	97	50	147	20.4	10.2	30.7
2nd quarter	108	52	160	22.6	12.1	34.7
3rd quarter	115	49	164	22.6	11.0	33.6
4th quarter	116	53	170	25.2	11.9	37.1
1973 1st quarter	99	47	146	22.2	11.8	34.0
2nd quarter	91	48	139	21.7	12.1	33.8
3rd quarter	97	51	148	23.0	14.5	37.5
4th quarter	93	56	149	19.0	14.6	33.6
1972 January	93	49	142	21.8	10.7	32.4
February	85	44	129	17.9	8.4	26.3
March	112	57	169	21.8	11.6	33.4
April	96	51	146	21.7	11.6	33.3
May	114	55	169	23.6	13.1	36.7
June	113	52	165	22.4	11.6	34.0
July	116	51	167	22.7	10.6	33.4
August	115	43	159	22.4	10.5	33.0
September	114	52	166	22.7	11.7	34.4
October	118	53	171	24.3	11.6	35.9
November	120	52	172	26.6	12.1	38.7
December	111	55	166	24.8	11.9	36.8
1973 January	111	50	161	22.9	11.7	34.6
February	92	44	136	22.5	12.2	34.7
March	95	46	141	21.2	11.7	32.9
April	85	44	129	20.8	11.4	32.2
May	90	50	140	20.7	10.4	31.1
June	97	52	149	23.7	14.4	38.1
July	108	54	162	24.6	16.6	41.2
August	103	54	157	21.5	13.4	34.9
September	81	44	125	23.0	13.4	36.4
October	100	58	158	22.0	16.8	38.8
November	94	58	152	16.8	12.2	29.0
December	86	52	138	18.1	14.7	32.8
Average of:						
July-Sept. 1973	97	51	148	23.0	14.5	37.5
Oct.-Dec. 1973	93	56	149	19.0	14.6	33.6
Percentage change	−4	+10	+1	−18	+1	−10

Index of retail prices for December 1973

The index of retail prices for all items for 11 December 1973 was 188.2 (16 January 1962 = 100). This represents an increase of 0.7 per cent on November (186.8) and of 10.6 per cent on December 1972 (170.2).
The index for all items excluding food in December 1973 was 181.3—an increase of 0.5 per cent (0.9 points) on November.
The index for food in December was 210.5—an increase of 1.7 per cent (3.5 points) on November.
The rise in the all items index in December was due to higher prices for bread, eggs, electricity, clothing and some other goods and services.

Retail prices index to be re-based

A recommendation from the Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee that the index of retail prices should be re-based at January 1974 has been accepted by Mr. William Whitelaw, Secretary of State for Employment.
In reply to a written Parliamentary question Mr. Whitelaw said: 'The Advisory Committee has considered the re-basing of the retail prices index and has recommended to me that the reference base should be changed to January 1974 = 100. They have also recommended that figures on the existing base of January 1962 = 100 should continue to be published in parallel with the new series during 1974. I have accepted the Committee's recommendations, which will be introduced in March in respect of the index for February. This is a purely arithmetical change which will make no difference to the percentage change in the index between any pair of months. It will not affect the regular revisions of the weights of the index which are made each January.'

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during December 1973 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	4,265	—	4,265
Over £100 but under £1,000	80	—	80
£1,000 but under £10,000	771	—	771
£10,000 but under £50,000	160	—	160
£50,000 but under £100,000	20	—	20
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	29	—	29
£1,000,000 and over	5	—	5
Total number	5,330	—	5,330
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	22,843	—	22,843

COMPANIES REGISTERED IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1972 AND 1973

	1972		1973	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	4,008	8,032	4,666	8,050
February	3,745	12,111	5,919	7,762
March	4,045	10,671	6,310	21,762
April	4,182	9,931	5,617	12,632
May	4,412	9,158	5,331	9,111
June	3,777	5,561	4,752	30,575
July	3,696	17,760	5,245	17,291
August	5,689	7,827	6,371	16,843
September	5,512	7,498	4,988	28,337
October	5,096	16,655	5,945	11,918
November	5,251	7,084	6,132	36,871
December	4,567	15,343	5,330	22,843
Total	53,980	127,631	66,606	223,995

Foreign arrivals in the United Kingdom during November

About 378,000 foreign visitors, including all travellers from EEC countries, arrived in the United Kingdom in November 1973 – 29 per cent more than in November 1972 – report the Department of Trade and Industry and the British Tourist Authority. (The figures exclude visitors from the Irish Republic and Commonwealth citizens.)

Total arrivals for the first 11 months of 1973 were 5,970,000, 11 per cent more than for the corresponding period of 1972.

EEC countries

Arrivals from EEC countries (excluding the Irish Republic) were 186,000, an increase of about 35 per cent over November 1972. For the first 11 months of the year the total of arrivals from the EEC has increased by 14 per cent compared with the same period of 1972. Arrivals from Belgium and Luxembourg continued to increase sharply and were 33 per cent up for the first 11 months of the year.

Other foreign countries

Total foreign visitor arrivals from non-EEC countries were 192,000 in November, 24 per cent up on 1972. For the first time since May the number of visitors from the United States in November was higher than in the same month of 1972, a rise of 5 per cent. The seasonally adjusted figures for September and October had indicated that arrivals from the United States were picking up; and despite the decline in the summer months, the total arrivals in the first 11 months were only slightly less than in the same period of 1972. Arrivals from non-EEC Western European countries were high for the time of the year and for the first 11 months were up 19 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted series

The seasonally adjusted series have all been increasing in recent months with total arrivals from EEC countries (excluding the Irish Republic) showing a particularly sharp rise.

Foreign arrivals

Thousands per month

	Total arrivals from EEC countries (excluding Irish Republic)		Foreign visitors from non-EEC countries							
			Rest of Western Europe (non-EEC)		United States		Other foreign countries		Total non-EEC countries	
	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA
1967	126		30		70		23		123	
1968	144		34		73		29		136	
1969	174		40		95		35		170	
1970	199		47		117		41		205	
1971	214		53		129		46		228	
1972	232		59		134		51		244	
1972										
January	124	223	32	56	56	136	31	50	119	242
February	105	208	30	54	46	134	25	49	101	237
March	240	264	51	62	84	139	34	51	169	252
April	234	264	50	62	114	138	41	49	205	249
May	253	217	54	54	166	136	49	48	269	238
June	254	210	77	55	213	120	61	50	351	225
July	472	213	126	57	242	119	86	49	454	225
August	358	209	72	57	213	118	86	51	371	226
September	244	229	61	58	199	139	72	51	332	248
October	195	245	59	62	129	142	51	52	239	256
November	137	245	43	60	79	142	33	54	155	256
December	169	258	45	64	71	139	41	58	157	261
1973										
January	139	254	35	62	60	136	34	54	129	252
February	132	268	36	65	51	139	29	56	116	260
March	170	272	44	73	88	138	46	69	178	280
April	334	272	78	73	129	144	49	60	256	277
May	266	238	56	56	167	134	61	60	284	250
June	299	255	88	65	196	126	73	60	357	251
July	535	250	142	65	228	118	106	61	476	244
August	408	248	89	70	197	114	101	60	387	244
September	278	266	74	71	181	127	91	64	346	262
October	242	309	73	77	122	139	64	64	259	280
November	186	320	63	85	83	145	46	75	192	305
Jan.-Nov.										
1972	2,616		655		1,541		570		2,766	
1973	2,989		779		1,503		700		2,981	

Total arrivals = all persons admitted, including long stay and short stay visitors from EEC countries.
Foreign visitors = all persons entering for visits of under one year from non-EEC countries excluding Commonwealth countries.
UA = unadjusted. SA = seasonally adjusted. Source: Home Office

Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland for November was 158 (1965 = 100), 16 per cent more than in November 1972.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in November 1973 was 3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in November and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Ministry of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX (tel: Belfast (0232) 34488, ext. 336).

		November 1973	
Sales by:	Sales in 1965— £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	256	158	16
Food shops	97	170	19
Non-food shops	159	151	15
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	147	11
Durable goods shops	21	161	19
Miscellaneous non-food shops	80	153	16
Department and general stores	22	136	15

New companies incorporated in Northern Ireland during October and November 1973

During October 1973, 70 private companies with a total nominal capital of £423,300 were incorporated in Northern Ireland, and during November the figures were 59 companies and £2,053,000. During the period January–November 667 companies with a total nominal capital of £6,870,761 were incorporated, compared with 658 companies with a total nominal capital of just over £3,069,000 incorporated in the same period in 1972.

Weekly indicators of industrial output

During the present emergency, indicators of output in some industrial sectors are being assembled where information is readily available. The following table presents the latest data available at the time of going to press.

Index numbers of output

Average 1973 = 100: not seasonally adjusted

	Week ending		
	5 January	12 January	19 January
Ethylene		106	112
Passenger cars	38	84	76
Commercial vehicles	32	71	73
Television sets: monochrome	51	77	76
colour	64	106	109
Cement (a)	46	65	73

(a) February 1973 = 100.

Notes

(i) In most cases, the average weekly production in 1973 is partly estimated. For cars and commercial vehicles, output last year was much reduced by industrial disputes.

(ii) Output in week ending 5 January was also affected by holidays.

Films Acts 1960 to 1970: Registration statistics for the year ended 31 December 1973

TABLE 1 Summary of registrations

(corresponding 1972 figures in brackets)

Playing time	Number of films				Registered playing time (minutes)			
	British				British			
	Quota	Non-quota	Community	Foreign	Quota	Non-quota	Community	Foreign
Over 72 minutes	80 (a) (89)	— (—)	80 (—)	220 (297)	7,806 (8,612)	— (—)	7,516 (—)	21,436 (29,153)
33½ to 72 minutes	9 (23)	4 (—)	7 (—)	10 (20)	462 (1,259)	180 (—)	474 (—)	677 (1,292)
Under 33½ minutes	77 (b) (85)	5 (4)	1 (—)	59 (41)	1,456 (1,546)	95 (75)	11 (—)	756 (433)
Newsreels	104 (104)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	781 (794)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

(a) Includes six films made under the British-Italian co-production agreement, two films made under the British-French co-production agreement, five films from Hong Kong and one from Australia.
(b) Includes seven films from Australia, five from Canada and two from New Zealand, all of which were made by Government departments.

TABLE 2 Countries of origin of foreign and Community films registered

Countries of origin	Playing time					
	Over 72 minutes		33½-72 minutes		Under 33½ minutes	
	Foreign	Community	Foreign	Community	Foreign	Community
Argentina	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bulgaria	—	—	—	—	14	—
Cuba	—	—	—	—	1	—
Czechoslovakia	2	—	1	—	—	—
Denmark	—	3	—	—	—	—
France	8	14	—	1	3	1
Germany (Federal Republic)	4	8	—	3	—	—
Greece	3	—	—	—	—	—
Hungary	1	—	—	—	—	—
Iran	1	—	—	—	—	—
Israel	1	—	—	—	—	—
Italy	9	19	—	2	3	—
Japan	4	—	—	—	—	—
Mexico	1	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	—	1	—	—	1	—
Poland	4	—	—	—	1	—
Portugal	—	—	—	—	1	—
South Africa	2	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	—	—	—	—	1	—
Surinam	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	3	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	2	—	1	—	—	—
USA	145	—	7	—	23	—
USSR	5	—	—	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	—	—	—	—	2	—

Country of origin	Playing time					
	Over 72 minutes		33½-72 minutes		Under 33½ minutes	
	Foreign	Community	Foreign	Community	Foreign	Community
JOINT PRODUCTIONS:						
France/Germany (Federal Republic)	—	2	—	—	—	—
France/Italy	1	16	—	—	—	—
France/Spain	—	—	—	1	—	—
France/Switzerland	—	1	—	—	—	—
Germany (Federal Republic)/Italy	—	2	—	—	—	—
Germany (Federal Republic)/Spain	—	1	—	—	—	—
Germany (Federal Republic)/USA	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong/Taiwan	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong/USA	1	—	—	—	—	—
Italy/Spain	2	1	—	—	—	—
Italy/Monaco	1	1	—	—	—	—
Spain/Portugal	1	—	—	—	—	—
Italy/USA	—	1	—	—	—	—
UK/Liechtenstein	1	—	—	—	—	—
USA/Sweden	1	—	—	—	—	—
France/Germany (Federal Republic)/Italy	—	5	—	—	—	—
France/Italy/Spain	1	4	—	—	—	—
Others	12•	—	1ø	—	9†	—
Totals	220	80	10	7	59	1

• Includes nine films made by UK companies and three by Commonwealth companies; application was not made for British registration.
ø Film made by a Commonwealth company; application not made for British registration.
† Includes eight films made by UK companies and one by a Commonwealth company; application was not made for British registration.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade and Industry under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 25 January 1974.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered No.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Satanic Rites of Dracula	BR/E 37279/27/1/79	88	24 January	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Hammer Film Productions Ltd.
Pianorama	BR/E 37280/27/1/79	22	24 January	MGM-EMI Distributors Ltd.	Tara Ltd.
Soft Beds, Hard Battles	BR/E 37281/27/1/79	107	24 January	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Charter Film Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2329	BR/E 37213/27/1/79	7	25 January	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2329A	BR/E 37214/27/1/79	7	25 January	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Versatile Lovers	EC 37273/27/1/79	87	22 January	Mark Associates Ltd.	Lira Films, Paris, Balcazar Films, Barcelona and Ascot Cineraid, Rome.
The Inheritor	EC 37278/27/1/79	112	24 January	MGM-EMI Distributors Ltd.	President Films, Paris, Cinetel, Paris and Euro International Film, Rome.
			FOREIGN		
The Day of the Dolphin	F 37274	104	22 January	Avco Embassy Pictures (UK) Ltd.	Avco Embassy Pictures Corporation
Janice	F 37275	84	22 January	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Laser Films
Raga	F 37276	97	22 January	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Faroun Films, Montreal
The Don Is Dead	F 37277	115	24 January	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures

Amendments to the Register:
On 24 January 1974, the registration number of the film 'Blue Movie', registered on 17 January 1973, was amended to EC 36585/21/1/78

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	18 Oct. 1973
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
quarterly figures (Q)	6 Dec. 1973
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	11 Oct. 1973
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	29 Nov. 1973
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	1 Mar. 1973
Capital expenditure:	
distributive and service trades (A)	28 Apr. 1971
manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	10 Jan. 1974
Catering trades turnover (M)	17 Jan. 1974
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Aug. 1973
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	22 Nov. 1973
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	15 Nov. 1973
Computers: UK market (Q)	24 May 1973
Construction work overseas (A)	11 Oct. 1973
Electronic capital equipment (Q)	21 June 1973
Energy trends (M)	24 Jan. 1974
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	17 Jan. 1974
Film industry:	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	10 Jan. 1974
Cinema admissions and takings (M)	10 Jan. 1974
overseas payments and earnings (A)	9 Aug. 1973
registration of films (A)	This week
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	30 Aug. 1973
household consumption (Q)	17 Jan. 1974
Footwear industry:	
production, orders and deliveries (M)	17 Jan. 1974
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	10 Jan. 1974
Foreign trade:	
industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	6 Dec. 1973
world exports of manufactures (A)	30 Sept. 1970
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	13 Dec. 1973
Hire-purchase business (M)	10 Jan. 1974
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	24 Jan. 1974
N. Ireland index (M)	24 Jan. 1974
Wales index (Q)	18 Oct. 1973
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	10 Jan. 1974
investment and earnings overseas (A)	29 Mar. 1973
Machine tools: deliveries and orders (Q)	17 Jan. 1974
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	29 Nov. 1973
production (M)	10 Jan. 1974
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	29 Nov. 1973
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	This week
estimated figures (M)	17 Jan. 1974
motor trade turnover (Q)	22 Nov. 1973
Office development permits (Q)	20 Dec. 1973
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	10 May 1973
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	24 Jan. 1974
value: analysis of trends (Q)	6 Dec. 1973
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Retail prices index (M)	This week
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	10 Jan. 1974
sales, N. Ireland (M)	This week
stocks (M)	15 Nov. 1973
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	12 Apr. 1973
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	6 Dec. 1973
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	3 Jan. 1974
Stocks:	
distributive and service trades (A)	28 Apr. 1971
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	10 Jan. 1974
retail (M)	17 Jan. 1974
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	9 Aug. 1973
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	13 Dec. 1973
carpet sales (M)	25 Oct. 1973
cotton industry production (M)	10 Jan. 1974
hosiery production (M)	10 Jan. 1974
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	24 Jan. 1974
orders and deliveries (M)	24 Jan. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	10 Jan. 1974
wool exports (Q)	14 June 1973
wool output (M)	10 Jan. 1974
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	This week
overseas travel and tourism (A)	21 Dec. 1972
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	29 Mar. 1973
index numbers (M)	17 Jan. 1974

Department of Trade and Industry organisation etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representation overseas	3 Jan. 1974
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	13 Dec. 1973
ECGD local offices	24 Jan. 1974
Guide to DTI	6 Dec. 1973
Official Receivers' offices	17 Jan. 1974
Programme of trade promotions	24 Jan. 1974
Release dates of economic statistics	24 Jan. 1974

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

30p per line, minimum £1.50 payable in advance Box No. 50p
Orders for advertisements should be addressed to HM Stationery Office, Room C70, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN
Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed to Box No.—Trade and Industry, Room C70, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN

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Advertising in 'Trade and Industry'

Inquiries about advertising in *Trade and Industry* should be addressed to HMSO, Room C70, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN. (Tel. 01-248 9876, ext. 6147).

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

5 February 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester, Oxon

Auctioneers: Midland Marts Ltd. (Dept L), Market Square, Bicester, Oxon (Tel: 08692-2073)

131 BSA motor cycles; Hillman Hunter; Mini Saloons; vans; Morris Trav.; firecrash tender; Defiant freightlifters; fork lift trucks; industrial tractors; Dorman engines; lathes; drilling, grinding and milling machines; MT spares; tyres; garage cranes; jacks; battery chargers; batteries; vices; rope; telephone sets; cameras; projectors; wristwatches; stopwatches; air compressors; charging sets; groundsheets; haversacks Mk 7; tents and tent sections; sleeping bags; greatcoats; battledress; pullovers; vests; denims; rags; climbing boots; carpets; chairs; tables; wardrobes; sideboards; dressing chests; filing cabinets and kitchen equipment.

12 February 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4A2

Auctioneers: Bartle & Sons, (Dept. L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS8 8JH (Tel: 0532-20898)

A large quantity of miscellaneous stores which include—presses; lathes; drilling, planing, bending, shearing, milling etc. machines; saws; compressors; generating sets; charging sets; tractors; fork lift trucks; pallet transporters; cable; tyres; electrical, signal and wireless equipment; MT spares; tools; lifting and towing equipment; batteries; household and kitchen equipment; tents; carpets; rope; camp equipment; greatcoats; battledress; raincoats; pullovers; shirts; overcoats; boots; shoes; chairs; tables; wardrobes; chests of drawers and beds. 70 BSA motor cycles and Ford vans.

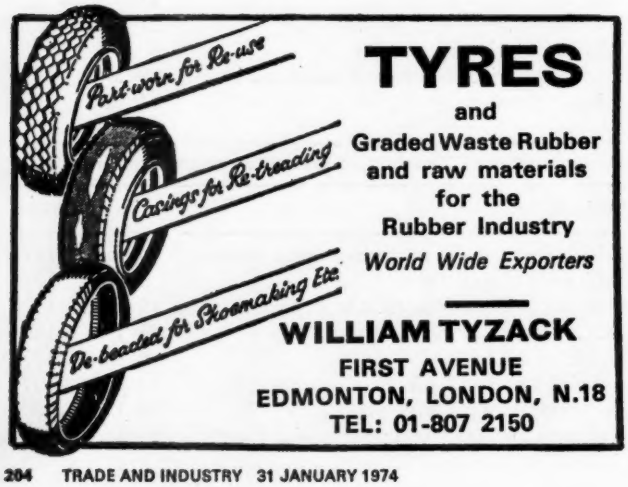
WARNING

Watch these advertisements for dates of sales. Dates may be altered at short notice because of the special economy measures to conserve fuel.

Catalogues of the above sales, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc. are available from the relevant auctioneers from two weeks prior to and up to the date of the sale, price 10p (postal order only).

Sale by Tender Motor Launches

Tenders are invited for 2 ex HM Customs Motor Launches, steel hulled complete with engines in very good condition. Tender forms are available from the Ministry of Defence, Director of Navy Contracts (Supplies), Section DC11(1), Ensleigh, Bath, BA1 5AD. (Tel: Bath 6933 Ext 4748). BUT must be requested before **19 February 1974.**



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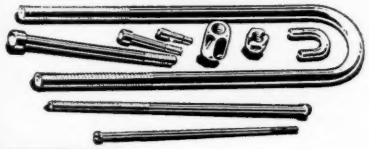

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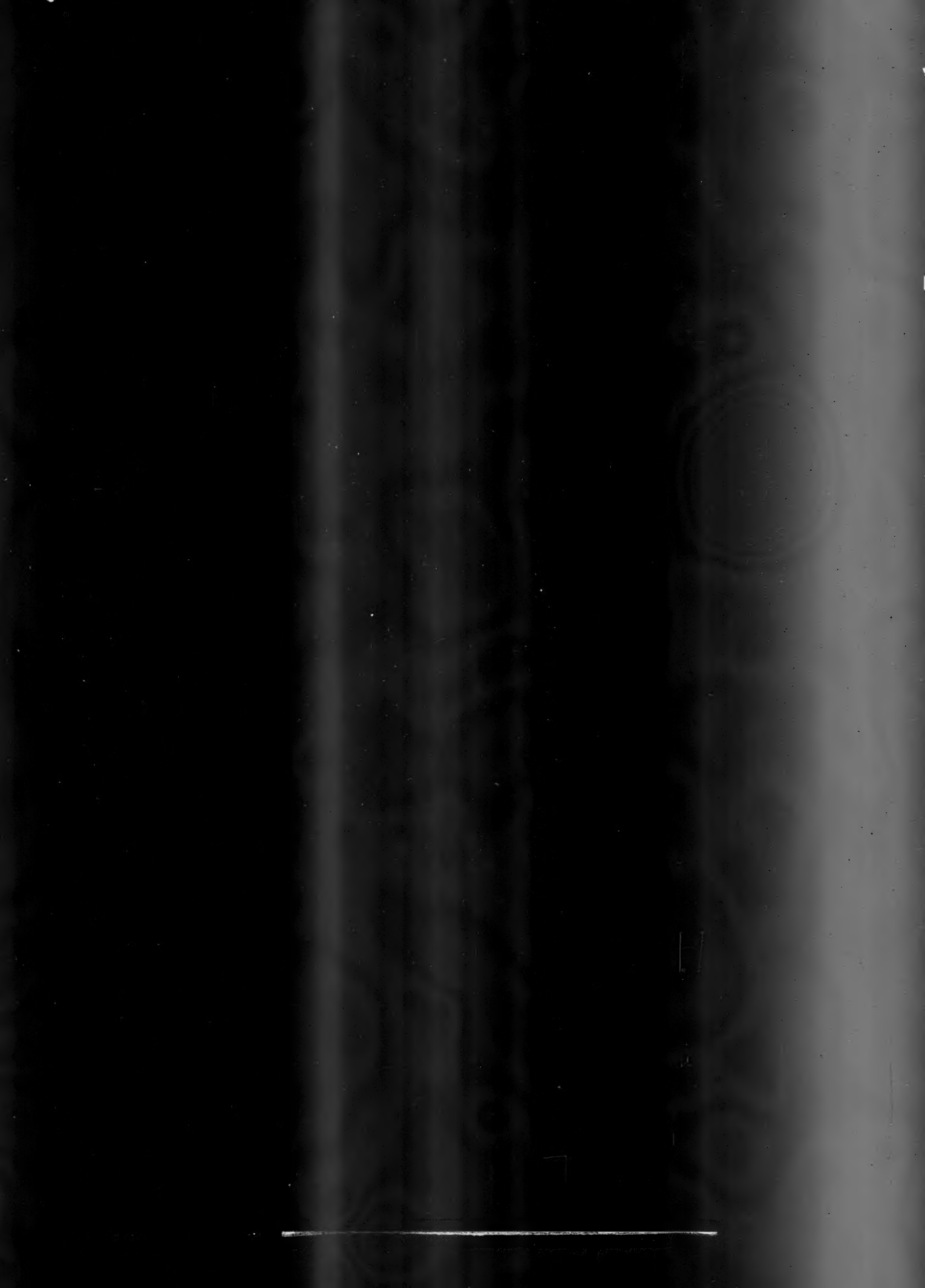
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